Roman STORIES:

OR, THE

HISTORY

OF THE

Seven Wiſe MISTRESSES

OF

ROME:

CONTAINING

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1606/1305.

To the READER.

THIS *small Volume of* Tales, *or* Stories *is collected for thy Diversion and Instruction, and may serve to shew thee what subtle Devices, and mallicious Accusations were formerly used to attain to Grandeur and gratify malicious and ambitious Persons.*

Here you may observe, That the Intent of this small Book (written in an Allegorical and Pleasant Method) is to promote Sincerity *and* Fidelity, *and to discountenance* Treachery *and* Falshood. *If you are inclin'd to* Virtue *here are Presidents to direct you; if to* Innocence, *here's Rules to instruct you; and if you would avoid* Vice, *here's Examples which set before you the Scandal and Miseries which attend a vicious Life. In a Word, you may here learn to despise* Vanity, *to prize* Innocence, *to expect* Death, *to escape* Hell, *and to obtain* Heaven.

You will find the Historical Part *interspers'd with* Curious Lessons *to please the Fancy, delight the Mind, sharpen the Wit, and illuminate the Understanding. The* Moral Part *instructs the Mind in the Knowledge and Precepts of* Virtue, *as the* Historical *delights the Fancy, and improves the Judgment.*

This small Book likewise, by the diverting Stories *therein, encourages and allures* Children *and* Youth *to learn to read* English; *for which End it is written in an intelligible and easy Stile, adapted to the meanest Capacities.*

To conclude, The Names of these seven Wise Mistresses are, Halicuja, Mardula, Circe, Penthisilea, Deborah, Dejanira, *and* Boadicea. *So this Book is humbly offer'd to the Perusal of the Candid Reader.*

THO. HOWARD

ROMAN STORIES:

OR,

The *History* of the SEVEN WISE MISTRESSES of *Rome*.

STORY I.

IN the great and flouriſhing City of *Rome*, there reigned a vertuous and Renowned Empreſs, named *Lucretia*, the ſole Heireſs and Poſſeſſor of that Imperial Crown and Dignity, who, with the Advice of her Council, married a rich, and glorious Prince, powerful, valiant, and beloved of all his Subjects; by whom ſhe conceived, and bare a Daughter named *SABRINA*.

This young Princeſs as ſhe advanc'd in Years, grew in Beauty, Vertue, and all the Qualities of Mind and Body, which are neceſſary to make an accompliſh'd Lady, inſomuch that ſhe was the Delight of all that knew her, and eſpecially of her Parents, who eſteemed her as the chief Jewel of their Crown.

It happen'd when *Sabrina* was about Six Years of Age, that a Province in her Father's Dominions, rebell'd against their Sovereign; to suppress which, the King assembled with all Speed a mighty Army, and march'd towards them; but the Weather proving unseasonable, he happen'd to catch Cold, which threw him into such a violent Fever, that his Recovery was despaired of. The King being concern'd for his Queen, and for the Education and Happiness of his young Daughter, whose tender Years render'd her incapable to take Care of her self, thought fit, finding himself worse and worse, to write the following Letter to the Empress:

Dear Lady,

MY Expedition has prov'd very unfortunate to me; for by the Way I am taken sick of a violent Fever. Therefore pray make haste unto me, that we may consult how to provide for the Education of our Daughter Sabrina, *and the State and Settlement of our Dominions: For I am without Hopes of Recovery, and if you make no great Haste, you will hardly see me alive.*

The Messenger posted away to the Empress, and finding her walking in the Garden, expecting every Hour News from her beloved Husband, he with profound Reverence deliver'd her the Letter. The Empress immediately broke it open, and reading what Condition her Lord was in, fell into a Swoon, to the Astonishment of all her Ladies; but so soon as she had recover'd her Senses, she caused her Chariot and Horses to be made ready, and hasted both Night and Day 'till she came to her Lord the King. She found him, to her great Grief, almost dead, and gently pressing her self upon his Breast, she kissed his ice Lips, being unable to speak for Tears and Sorrow.

B M

The King perceiving her raised himself in his Bed, and with a Flood of Tears spake to this Effect:

O my dear Lady, it rejoices me that you are come, that I may impart my troubled Mind to you, since I am not likely to recover. The natural [illegible]

bear to you, and your Daughter *Sabrina*, makes me conjure you in the first Place, to cause her for to be educated and trained up in all manner of vertuous Learning, whereby she may attain to all the Accomplishments befitting a Princess so nobly descended.

And when she is sufficiently instructed in all that is proper for her to learn as a private Lady, I desire That, in the next place, you will take her Home to your Imperial Palace, and admit her into your most Honourable Council, that she may perfect herself in the Knowledge of Affairs of State, and how for to govern with Justice and Wisdom your vast Dominions, which, in the third Place, I Implore you for to leave to none but her, who, after your Decease, has the best Right to them. As for you, my dear Lady considering you are advanc'd in Years, it is not like-

ly that you will, by a second Marriage, bury my Memory in Oblivion: and therefore I advise you to chuse from among the wisest and most grave of your Counsellors, a Senator, who is able to advise you in the most important Affairs of the Empire, and to be a Guardian to your young Daughter *Sabrina*, till she come to Maturity.

The sorrowful Empress answer'd, My Dear Lord, all these Things shall be perform'd according to your Will and Request. Then embracing each other, the King turned himself upon the Pillow and gave up the Ghost, and afterwards was conveyed into his own Country; where his Funeral was solemnized with the utmost Magnificence; after which, the Empress prosecuting the War against the Rebels, soon reduc'd them to Obedience; and having disbanded her Forces returned in Peace to *Rome*.

STORY II.

How the Empress, by the Advice of her Council, resign'd Sabrina *to the Care of* Seven Wise Mistresses.

SOON after the Funeral Obsequies, the Empress walking solitarily in her Garden, and thinking of the last Words of her late Royal Husband, wherein he recommended to her so earnestly the Interests of the Empire, and more especiallly the Education of the young Princess *Sabrina*, who was the chief Object of his Affections, said to her self, Now my dear Lord and Husband is dead, there is but one in the World whom I take Pleasure in, and that is my only Daughter *Sabrina*, the very Flower and Glory of Virgins, who is Heir Apparent of all my Dominions; therefore it is proper, while she is young and apt to receive Instruction to inform her Understanding, that she may be able, after my Decease, to manage the great Affairs of the Empire with Prudence

dence and Justice: To effect which, as my deceased Lord recommended, I cannot do better than to commit her to the Care of some vertuous Persons, who are well skill'd in Sciences.

Accordingly the Empress assembled all the Lords of her Council, and demanded their Advice concerning her young Daughter *Sabina*; and some of them proposed to build a Tower in the Royal Garden for the young Lady, with five devout Matrons to attend her, and two Philosophers to instruct her in Natural Philosophy, and other Arts, and Sciences: But some other Lords of the Council differ'd in Opinion, and said to the Empress: Most excellent Lady It is not expedient that she should be in such a Tower, nor such a Way instructed, for Three Reasons.

First, If she be in such a Tower, your Nobles and Ladies that frequent your Palace, by too often visiting her, will make her mind more the Pleasures of the Court than her Learning.

Secondly, Men Tutors are not suitable for a Princess of such incomparable Beauty; for through too

much Familiarity, and the Weakness of her tender Years, great Injuries may ensue, and her Princely Vertue may be stain'd.

Thirdly, Her Attendants being but five weak Ladies, might, for Hopes of a future Advancement, to please the young Princess, give her too much Liberty in yielding to her Fancies, and thereby destroy the best Time of her Study.

But, Gracious Lady, there is living not far from this City, Seven Wise Mistresses, most expert in Wisdom, and resolving all Manner of Questions, and who, for their great Skill and Learning excell all Women in the World: To whose Care we humbly advise your Majesty to commit your Princely Daughter. The Empress approving this Advice, sent a Letter to command the Seven Wise Mistresses to appear before her: They having received, and read the Letter, accordingly attended upon the Empress; who to make a Tryal of their Knowledge, demanded, If they knew the Reason why she sent for them?

They answer'd, Most Gracious Sovereign, we do; for it has been revealed to us in a Dream, which was this: We saw a high and mighty Tree, whose Branches covered all the Realm, under whose Leaves the Beasts of the Earth shelter'd without Number; and in an Instant, we saw it fall and dissolve, so that nothing but the Roots remained discernable, out of which proceeded a fair young Branch.

The Empress said, Unfold the Meaning thereof.

They replyd, The Tree which we saw, was our late Sovereign Lord the King; the spreading Branches signify his Power extending over all his Empire, out of whose Roots is sprung a young Scion, that is your only Daughter, who will rule the Empire with Equity and Honour, whose Learning and Education you will commit to our Charge.

You have said right, answer'd the Empress; I will commit my Daughter to you, to be instructed in all Sorts of Literature that she may be accomplished, and fit to govern the Roman Empire after my Decease; for which you shall receive Encouragement from the Royal Bounty.

The *Wise Mistresses* gladly undertook the Charge, and were transported with Joy at the generous Condescension of the Empress; so returning her Thanks, they received the young Princess *Sabrina*, and conducted her to their noble Palace. As they went, *Boadicea* said to her Companions, If we now should teach the Princess publickly, and grant her Recourse to the pleasant Gardens, it would prove a Hindrance to her Study; besides, the *Tuscan* Knights hearing of so great a Beauty, might (when we little think of it) steal her away.

Then (answer'd *Mardula*) let us place her in the *Brazen Tower*, and there we will paint upon all the Instruments of Musick the *Seven Liberal Sciences*, so that whenever she is inclin'd to Musick, she may at the same time be put in Mind of Vertue and Learning.

This Proposal being adher'd to, the Mistresses used their best Skill and Diligence in attending the young Lady, for the Space of seven Years; which being expired, they appointed a Day to prove her Experience in what she had learnt; which being come, they put the three following Questions to her. *1st*, What is the most acceptable Thing to God? She answer'd, *To obey willingly all his most holy Commands*. *2dly*, What is it gives the greatest Pleasure and Satisfaction to the Soul of Man? She said, *The Answer of a good Conscience*. *3dly*, What Knowledge made Women wisest? She reply'd, *The Knowledge of Good from Evil*.

The

The *Wise Mistresses* hearing these acute Answers, were of Opinion, That the Princess would, for Wisdom, be famous, and excel her Progenitors.

STORY III.

How the Empress, by the Advice of her Lords, chose Radamentus *her Assistant in the Government.*

IT was about the Time the Princes of the Land, and all the Nobility, assembled themselves together before the Empress in Council, for the Electing of a *Grand Consul*, expert in the Laws and Customs of the Empire, to assist the Empress in all temporal Affairs, according to the Will of her late Husband the King; and they chose one *Radamentus*, a wise, and crafty Politician, and one whom the Empress reposed great Confidence in, so that whatever he contrived or proposed, she was ready to sign. This *Radamentus* being thus placed at the Head of the Affairs of the Empire, he grew haughty, and ambitious of more Honour; and thinking to himself that the Empress was weak and sickly, and that 'twas probable she could not live long, nothing less could satisfy his Ambition, than the Hopes of making himself Emperor after her Decease: And knowing the Empress had a young Daughter, brought up under the Tuition of seven Wise Ladies, and was the apparent Heir of the Crown, he was afraid (when she came to Maturity) that she would marry, so frustrate his Hopes, and turn his Ambition to his own Confusion; therefore, from that Time he bent his Study to destroy her.

Now there was a Law, That whosoever was found in Fornication or Adultery, should die without Mercy. Upon a Day, as the Empress and *Radamentus* were both walking in the Garden, *Radamentus* seemed to be very melancholy, the which the Empress observing

ſerving, demanded the Cauſe of it: He anſwered, Now the Realm is in perfect Peace and Quietneſs, there's but one Thing I requeſt of you.

The Empreſs ſaid, Ask what you will, my Lord, it ſhall be granted, even to the one Half of my Dominions.

Then ſaid the Conſul, You have but one only Daughter in the World, who is Heireſs to the Empire, and ſhe is confin'd among Stone-Walls, where ſhe ſpends the Flower of her Youth in dull Thought and Contemplation, when the very meaneſt of your Subjects have an Opportunity of ſeeing and acting the very Things, which ſhe (tho' ſo great a Princeſs) is only able to imagine; wherefore ſend for her to Court, that you may have Comfort of her, and ſhe may ſee the Cuſtoms thereof, and have Recourſe to the Council.

The Empreſs anſwered, My Lord, I am very well pleaſed with your Requeſt, for it is Seven Years ſince I ſaw her. Soon after, ſhe diſpatched a Meſſenger with a Letter, commanding expreſly the *Seven Wiſe Miſtreſſes*, upon ſuch a Day, to bring her Daughter *Sabrina* to Court.

STORY

STORY IV.

How the Seven Wiſe Miſtreſſes *conſulted the Planets about carrying the Princeſs to Court; and how thereby they foreſaw the Deſign laid againſt her Life.*

WHEN the Miſtreſſes had peruſed the Empreſs's Letter, they retired into the Garden to view the Heavens, and with the utmoſt Skill conſulted the Aſpects of the Planets, to know if their Journey to the Court would be fortunate or no: But obſerving a great Contention among the Signs, they foreſaw, that when they preſented the young Lady, if ſhe ſhould anſwer any more Words than One, her Enemies would have Power over her, to betray her to a moſt ſhameful Death; ſo they were very much troubled all the Day, and about the Evening came down the young Lady *Sabrina* to divert herſelf in the Garden, but perceiving the Seven Wiſe Miſtreſſes very ſad, ſhe demanded the Cauſe of it? They anſwered

wer'd, O Madam! this Morning we received a letter from the Empress, commanding us to conduct you to Court; but having consulted the Stars, we plainly foresee that your Journey will prove fatal to you, if for the Space of seven Days you speak any more Words than one, which is *JUSTICE*: and this is what grieves us, to be reduc'd to such a Hazard after we have had such Success in your Education.

The young Princess then viewed the Firmament her self, observ'd the Motions of the Stars, and found their Sayings true; but said, If you'll follow my Advice, I question not but I shall be able to bring you off (and my self likewise) with Honour. The Mistresses promising to be directed by her, she said, I shall be accused by a wicked Person, but if you *Seven* will severally speak for me to my Mother the Empress, each Day one, the seven fatal Days will be over, and then I may speak for my self, and defend my Innocence.

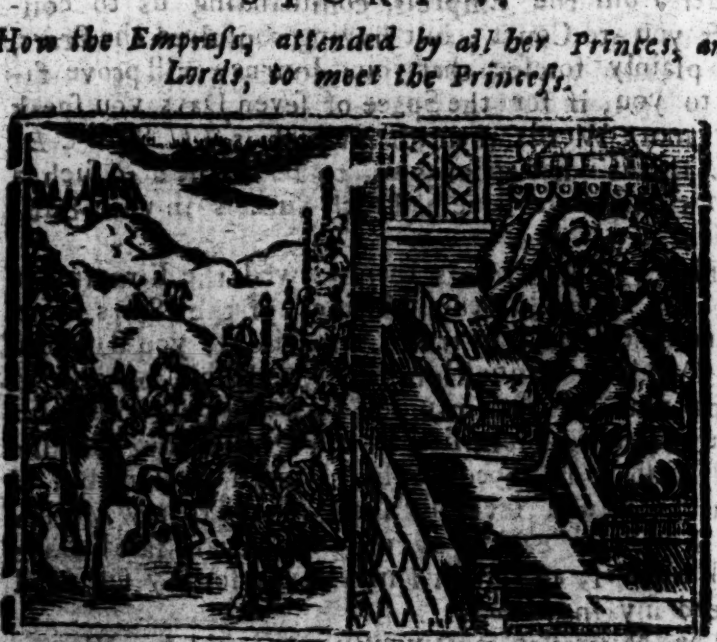
The Mistresses unanimously approv'd her Proposal, and when they were alone, with great Joy they said, What a Happiness is it for us to educate this ingenious Lady, whose Fame and Wisdom will one Day make her the greatest Empress in the World?

The Day appointed by the Empress being come, they cloath'd the Princess in Cloth of Gold, deck'd her with rich Ornaments, and provided a Chariot drawn by six white Steeds, and so in a magnificent manner, attended by a Train of pure Virgins, she directed her Course towards the Empress, Court.

STORY

STORY V.

How the Empress, attended by all her Princes, and Lords, to meet the Princess.



THE Empress hearing the *Seven Wise Mistresses* were upon the Road with her young Daughter *Sabrina*, she caused all her Chariots to be made ready, and with her Heralds, Trophies, and Banners, attended by all her Nobles, rode to meet them.

In the mean Time, the Wise Mistresses, addressing themselves to the Princess, said, If you please, Madam, we will go to some private Place in the City, and diligently observe the Planets in their several Motions, for the Preservation of your Life.

To this the young Lady willingly condescended, and bowed her Head, as though she said, Remember me in my Necessity; and so they departed, and the young Lady continued her Journey.

As soon as the Empress met her, she took her into her own Chariot, and clasping her iher Arms, kissed

issed her, saying, O my dear Daughter! the only delight I have in the World, whom God preserve for future Blessings, how is it with you? Now I hope you are fitly qualified by Learning to sit in my Throne after me, and govern with Glory and Honour the People which will be committed unto your Charge. The Empress hoping her Daughter would make a pertinent Answer, according to the great Wisdom she had heard she was endowed with, was surprized at her making no Answer, for fear of some Disaster had befallen her; and then sometimes she imagined, that having been so many Years learning other Languages, she might forget her own; with a great many other Imaginations that Fear and Fancy suggested to her: But being willing to make her speak she demanded, What she had learnt in so many Years with the Wise Mistresses? She answered *JUSTICE*; and bowed herself and spake not a Word more.

Then the Empress acquainted her Lords what Condition her Daughter was in, and said, The Mistresses should die the most shameful Death that could be thought of; But being willing once more to try her, when she came to the Palace, she took her by the Hand, and led her into the Garden, and placed her by her in the Arbour, and said, My dear Daughter, here is Pen, Ink, and Paper, if you will not speak, write the Reason of your Silence. The Princess taking the Pen in her Hand, wrote these Lines:

Through Learning, which doth me adorn,
I very plainly see,
The Star where-under I was born
Proves hazardous to me:
And I in Bed have lately dream'd
What shortly will ensue;
I Seven Times shall be condemn'd
In Judgment Seat by you.

When

When the Empress read these Lines, she was astonish'd, and being exceedingly troubled to think that she should give Judgment seven Times against her own Daughter, she wrung her Hands, and lamented greatly.

Radamentus the great Consul coming into the Garden at that time, the Empress said to him, See here my Lord, this my Daughter, the only Heiress of the Empire; but she is quite dumb. *Radamentus* viewing her incomparable Beauty, was presently fir'd with Lust, resolving, if possible, to debauch her and so bring about her Destruction, which was the chief Thing he aim'd at, but treacherously answer'd, The young Lady is bashful, Madam, at your venerable Countenance, and the Majesty of your Looks: but if you will be pleased to deliver her to me, I will engage I make her declare all she has learned with the Wise Mistresses. But God was pleased to inspire the Heart of the Empress not to let her go with him, whereby he miss'd his perfidious Aim for that time.

STORY VI.

How Radamentus *took his Opportunity to surprize the Princess in the Garden; and how, being repulsed by her, he conspired to take away her Life.*

Radamentus after this, being at his Chamber Window, espied the Princess walking all alone in the Garden, having left the Key in the Door, whereupon going down he came to the Lady on a sudden, as she was contemplating under a Tree. The Princess startled at the unexpected Presence of *Radamentus*, began to blush: so that there appear'd in her Face such a crimson Tincture, that the Malice of *Radamentus* was turn'd into a great Love for her; which he thus declared to her;

Most

Most Lovely Lady, give me Leave to tell you that the first Time I saw you, your Beauty kindled a fire within my Breast, and now the Sight of you confirms the same, which nothing can allay, except you vouchsafe me the Favour to sleep with you upon this Bed of Roses, and repose our selves in the Bosom of Love.

The Royal Princess turning about, with a scornful Gesture gave a Repulse to his lascivious Request; which turn'd his Love to such Fury, that running out of the Garden, he cry'd out, That he saw the Princess with a Man under a Fig-Tree, committing the foul Sin of Fornication, to the Breach of the Law, the Shame of her Parents, and the Destruction of her own Soul.

The Empress hearing this, was struck with Horror and Amazement, but having recovered her self, she thus expostulated: How unhappy am I in such a Daughter, who, in the first Place, was deliver'd to me speechless, when I expected her to be perfected in the Knowledge of Arts and Sciences; and now, when I hop'd she was adorn'd with Vertue, she is given up to Vice! Would to God the Day of her Birth had been the Day of her Burial.

Thus the Empress believ'd all that the wicked *Consul* had reported: The Nobles that were present ask'd where he saw this? He answer'd, Under a Fig-Tree; but (said he) the Man when he perceiv'd me, ran away. Then the Nobles hasted into the Garden, and finding the Princess walking by herself, they ask'd what Man had been there with her? She answer'd nothing. Then the Empress seeing she was in the Garden, as *Radamentus* had reported, believ'd all he said, and so in a great Rage commanded her to be burnt at a Stake: But the Ladies address'd themselves to the Empress, saying, Gracious Lady, she is your only Daughter, therefore

let

let her have a little Repose, till you better consider of the Matter; it may chance to prove a Mistake of the *Consul*, and if you put her to Death rashly, it will turn to your Dishonour, and we shall be reproached of all Nations; wherefore let a Day be appointed for her Tryal, and if the Twelve Judges of your Empire find her guilty, let her be condemn'd in Form by the Law.

The Love of the Empress to her Daughter, overcoming her Rashness, he hearkened to this Advice, and committed her to Prison for the present.

STORY VII.

How Radamentus *complain'd against the young Princess, and accus'd her of Fornication.*

RADAMENTUS finding his Accusation succeeded, omitted nothing for the Prosecution thereof; and coming to the Empress with a dejected Look she said, My grave Lord and Counsellor, why are you so sad? O Madam, answer'd he, because of the Disgrace the Lewdness of your lascivious Daughter brings upon the whole Empire; and if you suffer her to live any longer, you'll be counted as bad your self; for People will readily say, What need we fear to break the Law, since the Law-makers do it? The Daughter of the Empress is a Strumpet, and the Empress protects her in it; and thus thro' her Means we shall have *Vice* supported, and *Vertue* depressed.

The Empress replied, To prevent all these Evils, To-morrow I will sit in Judgment, and she shall die by the Law. Then said *Radamentus*, Be as good as your Word, Madam, I advise you, lest it happen to you as it did to a Lady in *Cappadocia*. The Empress desiring to hear how that was, *Radamentus* began his Story, as follows.

The

The First Story, or Example of Radamentus.

THere lived a Lady in *Cappadocia*, who had in her Garden a Well of such Vertue, that whosoever was bit by any venomous Beast, the Water thereof would immediately cure them. It happened one Day as the Lady was gathering Flowers, she espied in the Corner of the Garden, the Side of a little Rock, a small Stream of Water abundantly more clear than the vertuous Well; which made her imagine that if the Rock was cut, there would issue a Water more excellent than that of the Well; she therefore said to the Gardener, Procure me a Workman to cut a Passage out of this Rock, that I may have a Fountain here; and I give you Charge over it, to see it done.

The Gardener did so; but the Lady coming another Time to see the Spring, it did not appear with

a Current ſo ſtrong as ſhe expected; ſo demanding the Reaſon of it, the Gardener ſaid, The Original Spring was deep in the Earth, and had two Ways; one to the Well, and t'other to the Rock; but that to the Well being ſtrongeſt, drew the Water moſt, and caus'd the other to be ſo weak.

Then ſaid the Lady, Deſtroy the Well then, for doubtleſs this Spring will prove the better Water. The Gardener did ſo, and another Day the Lady came into the Garden to ſee the new Spring, and to taſte the Water, but it prov'd very bitter: and having its Courſe through a Tin-Mine, it putrified the Sores, and augmented the Pain of thoſe that bath'd therein; ſo that all People curs'd the Counſellors that advis'd the Lady to deſtroy the virtuous Well. Now, Madam, ſaid *Radamentus*, I will give you the Meaning of what I have ſaid.

The EXPLANATION.

The Virtuous Well, Great Lady, betokens yourſelf, who governs the People with ſuch Equity, that whoever complains to you, have their Grievances immediately redreſs'd.

The young Spring is your graceleſs, laſcivious Daughter, who will cauſe your Imperial Name to be blaſted, and your Vertuous Government deſpis'd. Her Actions, like the Water of the new Spring, are bitter, as running through a Tin-Mine; that is, a baſe and wicked Behaviour, ſo that ſhe will ſoon break your Heart; then all People will curſe the Counſellors that advis'd you to let her live. Therefore, great Lady, to prevent it before ſhe is rooted in Wickedneſs, I adviſe you to put her to Death, leſt the Curſes of the People follow you.

I will prevent it, ſaid the Empreſs, for to Morrow ſhe ſhall die without fail.

When

When the Day was come, the Empress commanded her Officers to lead her away to be burnt; and as she was led through the City, cloathed in white Lawn, the Trumpet sounding her doleful Funeral, the People ran out, and wept, crying, Alas! alas! the only Daughter of the Empress is leading to Death.

Then came *Halicuja*, the first Mistress, to whom the young Lady bowed her Head, as if she had said, Remember me when you come before my Mother. When she came to the Court the Empress said, with a stern Countenance, Thou ungrateful and vile Woman, how hast thou tortur'd my Child? I deliver'd her to thee vertuous and hopeful, but thou hast return'd her the wickedest Creature in the World; for which thou shalt die a cruel Death.

Then said the Mistress, Gracious Lady, the Divine Powers know that she is not speechless without a good Cause; but as for the Sin of Fornication, we all can safely testify, that, for the Space of Seven Years, we never saw the least Wickedness by her, either in Thought, Word, or Deed: And if you put her to Death, only for the Accusation of *Radamentus*, it will happen to you as it did to the Queen of *Syria*, who poison'd her Husband thro' the Persuasion of one wicked Person.

The Empress desiring to hear this Story, the Mistress said, the Princess might be dead before she make an End, but if she would recall her 'till she had done, she would declare it. The Empress consenting, and committing the Princess to Prison, the Mistress began as follows,

The Example of the First Mistress.

IN the Kingdom of *Syria* reign'd a Queen of great Renown, and of such excellent Beauty, that many Kings and Princes came to court her, each hoping

ping she should be his. This Queen delighting much to see Jousts and Tournaments, a Day was appointed for every one to shew his Valour before her.

But among all the Candidates, there was none to be compared for Beauty and Valour to *Darsis* King of *Parthia*; who perform'd such gallant Actions, overcoming all the Kings and Princes that were there, which so pleased the Queen, that she caused the Trumpets and Drums to welcome him from the Field, and the Trophies of his Victory to be carried before him and on the next Day, sent for him to the Palace; where being arriv'd, he modestly kneeled before the Queen, and offer'd to kiss her Hand. The Queen being charm'd with his good Behaviour, saluted him with her Lips; and giving him further Encouragement, they grew so intimate that in a while she took him for her Husband, making him joint King of *Syria* with her, to the great Joy of her Subjects; to whom he behav'd himself with such Clemency and Justice, that he was beloved of all. The Queen, for her Part, lov'd the King so well, he mutually returning her Affection, that there never was a happier Pair.

They had not been long married, when a Letter came from the King of *Parthia*, his Father, who lay upon his Death Bead, enjoining him to come with all Speed to him, that he might take Possession of the Kingdom of *Parthia* after his Decease.

While the King was gone, an Evil Counsellor in his Court, being in Love with the Queen, intercepted all the King's Letters, and inform'd the Queen That he had marry'd another Lady in his own Country; which rais'd such Jealousy in her, that she tore the Ornaments off her Head, wringing her Hands saying, Oh! my dear Lord! wherein have I offended you, that another shou'd reap the Consolatio

of your Love? The King in the mean time wondring he could never receive any Letter from the Queen, likewise lamented, saying Oh! my dear Lady! What is the Reason I can never hear how you do, nor how the Affairs of your Kingdom stand?

All this while the wicked Counsellor intercepted their Letters on both sides, and at last invented a strong Poyson, telling the Queen, It was of such Virtue, that if she would cause a Ring to be made hollow, and put a little of this in it, and send it to the King as a Token, 'twould cause him to forsake all other Women, and haste home to her.

The Queen believing this wicked Counsel, was very glad, and without the Advice of any other, caused a Ring to be made, as he had said, and put therein the Poyson, and sent it away to her Husband. When the Messenger came before him, he presented the Ring to him. The harmless King joyfully put it on, saying, 'Twas the most welcome Present he ever re-

received: But soon after, his Finger beginning to swell, he sent for his Physicians, who said, it was crom'd with the strongest Poyson in the World, nd he must cut it off, else 'twould infect his whol Body. Then said the King, Cut it off; which ac cordingly was done: Then his Arm began to swell, and in like manner that was cut off to preserve his Life. But the good King finding the Poyson begin to infect the other Parts of his Body, he thus exclaimed against the Queen:

O thou ingrateful Woman! Why hast thou done thus to him who loved thee equal to his own Soul? Thou hast done that by Poyson, which the stoutest Champion could not effect by Arms! How could'st thou return infectious Poyson for the most ardent Love! Must I that have won the greatest Glory that ever came to *Syria*, at last be basely conquered by the treacherous Force of Poyson, and the wicked Arts of a perfidious Wife?---O ungrateful Woman!--- What hast thou gained but the Reproach of all Nations, and the Curses of good People!---And saying this, he sunk down in his Chair and so died.

Then the Messenger hasted home, and told the Queen what had happened, and that all the Counsellor had told her of the King was false. At which the Queen fell a weeping and wringing her Hands saying, O what have I done! what have I done! I have by the Advice of an Evil Counsellor slain my dear Husband the King! O cursed Traytor! would God I had never followed thy wicked Counsel! But this Hand that first received the cursed Ring shall put an End to this miserable Life! And so taking a Knife, she thrust it into her Breast, and instantly, expired.

Then said the Mistress, Understand you, Madam, what I have said? Yes, very well, answer'd the Empress, you have shewed me a good Example

without

without doubt this Day my Daughter shall not die; this was one of the wicked'st Counsellors that ever liv'd. The Mistress replied, Then you will do wisely, and I thank you for sparing your Daughter's Life this Day for my Sake.

The Second Complaint of Radamentus.

WHEN *Radamentus* understood the Princess had obtained Pardon through the Means of *Halicujah*, he retired to his Chamber, and pretended excessively to grieve and lament, and refused to come to Council; Whereat the Empress was much troubled, and sending for him, demanded the Cause of his Grief, and the Reason why he did not attend the Council. He answered,

What greater Trouble can there be, Madam, to an innocent Man, than to be revil'd and unjustly traduc'd by every vulgar Tongue? All People know I have the Honour to be your Assistant in the Empire, and as they believe I steer at the Helm of Justice, they will conclude that I permit Vice, and banish Virtue from your Court, seeing there has been the Crimes of Whoredom and Fornication committed in your Palace, even by the Empress's Daughter; and yet she remains unpunish'd. This will not only be a Scandal to me, but to your Majesty, whose Administration will become an Object of Contempt to the whole World, if you suffer such Crimes to pass with Impunity. And besides, it will certainly happen to you as it did to the Queen of *Epirus*, who had such another wicked Daughter.

The Empress desiring to hear how it was, *Radamentus* began as follows.

The Second STORY *of* Radamentus.

IN *Epirus* reigned a vertuous Widow Queen, who had one only Daughter, whom she tender'd above her Life. This Daughter grew very crafty, and ambitious, and often convers'd with a Sorceress, to whom she complain'd, That there was but one Nobleman (who was her Mother's most faithful and chief Counseller) that hinder'd her from having her Will and Liberty.

The Sorceress answer'd, I will teach you how to betray his Life, and then you may do well enough with your Mother. She desiring to be taught, the Sorceress reply'd,

When he is walking in the Garden, go to him, and if he sit down, sit you by him, 'twill be a Provocation to move his Spirit, and if he proceed, then give him Encouragement: But if he refuse, cry out he has ravish'd you.

In Pursuance of this Advice, this wicked Wretch watching an Opportunity, sate by this Nobleman, and smiling upon him, smote him gently with the Palm of her Hand, upon the Cheek, and said, Come let us solace our selves in the Bosom of Love untill the dark Evening.

The Nobleman modestly excusing himself, the Princess tore her Hair, and cry'd out, Alas! Alas! What shall I do! The Queen being at the Window, heard the Cry, and looking out espied her Daughter in the Garden, crying and wringing her Hands: Then sending her Lords to know the Matter, the Princess said, This Man (meaning the harmless Lord) under yonder Tree hath robbed me of my Virginity. The Queen hearing this, said, He shall surely die. The Lords answered, It is proper that you hear him before you put him to Death. Nay, said the Queen

I have heard my Daughter, what need we any further Witness? I will believe her Testimony above that of the World. And thereupon commanded the Lord to be led away, and put to Death, which accordingly was done. And from that Time the Princess always sought the Destruction of her Mother; to effect which, on a Time she accosted her thus:

Most Honour'd Madam The Obedience which I owe your Majesty, both as my Mother and my Sovereign, obliges me to advise you not to undervalue your self to speak to every mean Subject that comes to implore Justice; for, *Familiarity breeds Contempt.* But if you please to give me a Commission to determine all Causes under your Majesty, it will make you be more respected, and likewise ease you of many troublesome Affairs.

The Queen believing all that her Daughter said was for her Good, accordingly set forth a Proclamation, That all Persons whatsoever, having Business at Court, should address themselves to her Daughter. To the People that came to her she, appeared very mild, amiable, and courteous, thereby insinuating her self into their Affection; to whom she took her Opportunity to say, My Mother is very peevish, being ancient, but if you will take me for your Sovereign, I will do you Justice according to the due Administration of the Law: At which Words they were all very joyful, and promis'd faithfully to perform it And said she, raise an Army, and stand in your own Defence, and plead that the Subsidies, and the heavy Taxes are too weighty for you to bear; and then you shall soon hear from me. So the rude Multitude did as this Daughter advis'd them; and then she went to her Mother, and acquainted her, That there was a factious People had rebell'd, and it was good to suppress them in time, lest they should grow too numerous. The Queen

hen gave her the supreme Authority, in granting Commissions to raise an Army; and having told her Mother. That she must have a great Quantity of Gold to pay them, the Queen delivered Two hundred thousand Marks of Gold; with which she hasted to her factious Crew, whom she paid with her Mother's own Treasure, and gave them Commissions under the Royal Seal; so that all the rest of the Subjects were amazed, for seeing their Commissions under the Queen's Seal, all lay still, thinking it had been no Rebellion.

At last this new Army advancing towards the Court, where being come, this wicked Wretch hasted to her Mother, and told her. That she, by fair Persuasions, had assuaged the Fury of the People and brought them there to beg Pardon, which she desired her Majesty to grant them.

The Queen always reposing a great Confidence in her wicked Daughter's Advice, condescended. and as she was going out to sign their Pardons, being conducted by her Daughter, she passed over a Bridge, and a Board tilting up, the Queen fell into a Cauldron of boiling Oil, that her wicked Daughter had provided, and thereby was destroyed.

And afterwards was this wicked Wretch proclaimed Queen, whose lascivious Actions and cruel Tyranny caused all the Neighbouring Nations, as well as her own Subjects, to hate her; insomuch that as she was coming through the City of *Combro*, a Butcher's Man dash'd out her Brains with his Cleaver.

Radamantus then said to the Empress, Understand you, Madam, What I have said? The Empress answer'd, Yes very well, my Lord; therefore to prevent these Evils, this Day my Daughter shall die.

Accord-

Accordingly she commanded her Daughter to be led to the Place of Execution; and as she was going, the second Mistress addressed her self to the Empress, and doing great Reverence, said,

O great Lady, if you put to Death your Daughter for the Words of *Radamentus*, it will happen worse to you than it did to a Lady of *Barbary* and or Lyon. The Empress said, Pray shew me how that was. Then the Princess being called back, the Mistress began as follows.

The Example of the Second Mistress.

A certain Lady of *Barbary* and her Husband having undertaken a long Voyage, it happened that the Wind proving boisterous and contrary, they were forced to be a tedious while at Sea, so that all the Provision was spent; and having continued without Food, 'till Nature could subsist no longer, they threw Dice who should be killed first to feed the rest; so they eat one another in order as they began, 'till all were eat except this Lady and her Husband, whom pure Love hindred from eating each other. At last having eat all they had to subsist upon, they resolved to die together, and so sewed themselves in one Carpet, and laid them down upon the Deck, saying The Great God of Heaven and Earth assist us. By the Time they were lull'd asleep by the rocking of the Waves, here chanced to come upon the Deck a great Griffin, (that is, half an Eagle, and half a Lyon, so that it is neither a Bird nor Beast, but a Creature as strong as a Horse) that can fly, and took up the Carpet in her Claws, with the Lady and her Husband, as a Prey for her young Ones, and carried them into a strange Island, inhabited by Lyons, Bears, Wolves, and such like Beasts: When the Griffin had brought them into his Den, he and his

Young began to peck at the Carpet, which awaken'd the Lady and her Husband, who being a stout Hero, open'd the Carpet, and espy'd Land; and having his Sword with him, fought desperately with the Griffin, and slew him and all his Young. But not knowing how to get off from this Island, they wandered up and down till the Man died, and then the poor Lady was alone, and comforted by none but God above. It happened on a Time as this Lady was wandering about the Wilderness, she chanced to meet a mighty He Lyon, whose roaring seemed to her like Claps of Thunder, at whose Sight she fell to the Ground, saying, *O great Jehovah! who holdeth the Power of all Creatures in thy Hands; have Mercy upon me!* And as she drew near unto him, she discovered that he halted and groaned, as though he wanted Help; so she ventured to him, and looking in his Foot, which he held patiently up, found therein a great Thorn, which she drew out: This done, the Lyon fawned upon her, and licked her, and shewed a great Love and Kindness to her, leading her to his Den, where she continued for a long Season, feeding upon nothing but the Prey the Lyon brought her; and which way soever she walk'd, the Lyon would attend upon her, and preserve her from all savage Beasts.

At last, as she was mourning to her self, deploring her Condition in living in such Obscurity in a foreign Country, whose daily Comparion was but a savage Beast, her Mind yearning after her own Habitation, she thus complained: O how hath Fortune frown'd on me, that I am driven from all Humane Society, and am glad to take my living with the Beasts of the Field! as she thus complained to herself, the Devil chanced to appear unto her, and demanded the Cause of her Complaint; and she told him all as you have heard. Then

Then said he to her, What wilt thou give, an I'll provide a Ship shall carry thee home to thy ow Country? She answer'd, Half my Estate. Nay, said the Devil, if thou wilt give thy Soul at the End of Twelve Years, I will set thee in thy own Country, and thou shalt live and flourish for that Term: God forbid, said the Lady, I will first end my wretched Life in this sorrowful Island.

Why then, said the Devil I'll make this Bargain with you: If you can abstain from sleeping all the Time of your Voyage, which shall be but three Days, I'll have nothing to do with your Soul; but if you sleep, I'll have it, as I have said. Upon this Bargain the Lady ventur'd, provided she might have her Lyon with her; so 'twas concluded, and a brave Ship came, and took in the Lady, and her Lyon; who, whenever she lay down, lay down by her, and if she offered to slumber, the Lyon would touch her with his Paw, by which means she kept awake all the Voyage, until she landed in her own Country.

When she was arrived at *Barbary*, she went to her Father's House, and knocked at the Gate, which the Porter open'd with Speed; but believing, because she was meanly clad, she was a Beggar, he frowningly shut it again, saying, Here is nothing for you; then she knocked at the Gate again, and asked the Porter, If such a Knight liv'd there? meaning her Father, and he said Yes: Then said she, Pray deliver this Piece of a Ring unto him. Now this Ring was the same she brake betwixt her Father and herself at her Departure out of the Land; then the Porter delivered the Ring to his Master, saying, A Beggar-Woman at the Gate desired me to deliver this Piece of a Ring unto you When the Knight saw the Ring, he swoon'd away for Joy; but when he was reviv'd, he said, Call her in, for she is my only Daughter, whom I thought was dead. The

said the Porter, I dare not call her in, for there is a mighty great Lyon with her. Though there be said the Knight, call her in: Then the Porter going to her, said, You are to come in; but leave your Lyon out. No, said the Lady, my Lyon walketh where I go, and where he is not, there will I not be.

The Porter then opened the Gate, and when she came to her Father she fell down on her Knees and wept: Her Father took her up in his Arms, and kissed her, weeping as fast; but soon after, cloathing her in sumptuous Apparel, he placed her by him in a Chair, and demanded the Relation of her Travels: She declared unto him all that happened, and how the Lyon had saved her Life, and was the greatest Comfort she had in the Wilderness; as had been related. Afterwards, as the Knight was going into his Wood to view his young Horses, he met with a wild Boar, who ran towards him: The Lyon loved the old Knight, and was, by chance, walking under the side of the Hedge, and scenting the Boar, he ran with all Speed to the Assistance of the Knight, which the Steward perceiving ran into the House, and cry'd, The Lyon is running afeer my Master to destroy him. Then the Lady sent after him ten of her Servants, who met the Lyon with his Mouth all bloody, and they ran back and told the Lady, the Lyon had destroyed her Father. Then said the Lady. O Woe is me that ever I was born! I have brought a Lyon from far to destroy my own Father! And saying this, she commanded her Servants to slay the Lyon; which was no sooner done, but her Father came in, and said, I have met with a wild Boar, who had surely destroyed me, but that the Lyon came to my Assistance, and slew him, and so saved my Life, When the Lady heard this, she wrung her Hands, saying, Alas! alas! For the

Words

Words of a wicked Steward, I have slain my Lyon, who hath saved both my Life and my Fathers, Cursed be the Time I was advised by him?

The Mistress then said, Does your Majesty understand what I have said? Yes, very well, said the Empress: You have shewed me the Danger of Evil Counsel, which caused the Lady to slay so fine a Lyon; surely I'll beware of such bad Advice; my Daughter shall not die this Day. The Mistress said, if you do so, you will do well, therefore I commit you to GOD, and am obliged to your Majesty for saving your Daughter this Day for my Sake.

The Third Complaint of Radamentus.

When *Radamentus* understood the Young Princess was not dead, he kept his Chamber, tore his Hair, griev'd much, and said the State of the Empire lies groaning under the Scandal of all Nations, and reckoned the very Sink of Wickedness. And as he was thus complaining, some of his Attendants overhearing him, went and told it to the Empress; and she going to him, asked the Cause of his Lamentation; he answered, O great Lady! how can I otherwise chuse, when I reflect on the great Scandal that lies on the Empire thro' the Lascivioufness of your graceless Daughter, and yet cannot have Justice executed on her, whereby we may wash away the Stain that remains on your Honour and my Reputation, the World knowing I am your Assistant in the Government? And since there's no more Regard had to the Laws, I have just Cause to leave your Realm, and suffer you to plunge your self into the Deluge of Unhappiness, that will of course ensue; only the Love I bear you and your Subjects deters me from it: You know, great Lady, if I should leave you to your self, through your Easiness in believing fabu-

lous

ous Stories, it would tend to your utter Destruction.

Then said the Empress, My grave Lord and Counsellor, pass by Sorrow at this Time, and I will never neglect your Request, but take your Advice.

Then replied *Radamentus*, I wish you would, else I fear it will happen to you as it did to a Lady in the Kingdom of *Utergo*, who tendered her Cat as she did her own Life, 'till at last it had like to have tore her Throat. Prithee, said the Empress, shew me the Example. That I will gladly do, said *Radamentus*, and began as follows.

In the Kingdom of *Utergo*, lived a Lady who had but one only Daughter, whom she loved above her self She hearing there was a wise and learned Woman not far from her own Court, committed her Daughter to her Care, to be educated and instructed in all Arts and Learning.

It proved that this Woman was very skillful indeed, for she was the greatest Sorceress in all that Land, tho' unknown to the Lady; so that instead of instructing the Child in useful and virtuous Learning, she taught her the Art of Necromancy, and in seven Years time learnt her to transform her self into the likeness of a Cat.

Upon a Time the Lady sent for this learned Woman to come to her, and bring her Daughter with her, that she might see how she had improved herself in Learning. Being come, the Lady asked her Daughter three Questions, *viz.*

1*st*, What is most pleasing to Nature when it is satisfied? She answered, *Ease*; *for when the Belly is full the Bones desire Rest.*

2*dly*, How far is it to the Bottom of the Sea? She answered, *A Stone's throw.*

3*dly*, How long is the Sun and Moon going round the World? She answer'd, *Four and twenty Hours.*

Then,

Then said the Lady, You have answered well ubtless thou wilt prove a witty Woman. The lking in her Parlour, she shewed the Mistress a de- ate fine Cat she had; and the Mistress said, It is deed a brave Cat, but I have the finest Cat at me that ever was seen; for she will wait at the ble, and discover lost Things, so that there is not e like of her in all the World. Then (said the dy) prithee let me have that Cat. The Mistress swered, If you will let your Daughter abide with e seven Years longer, I'll present you with the Cat. he Lady readily consented thereto; so the learned oman departed with her Pupil. Being got home, e told her, That if she would act her Part, she'd ach her how she should enjoy all the Pleasure the orld could afford. She answering, none was more dy to learn than she; the Sorceress said, You must ansform your self into the likeness of a Cat, and I ill present you to your Mother: To which con- nting the Sorceress took her, hasted away, and pre- nted her to her Mother in the Shape of a Cat, ing of four distinct Colours, *blue*, *red*, *green*, and *low*. Then said the Lady, This is the finest Cat at ever I saw, and taking her into her Lap, she fed with white Bread and Milk, and would never sit own to Meat, but her Cat must be at her Elbow.

In a little time the Cat began to play her Pranks; there was a Maid living in the House whose Car- age was civil, Conversation honest, and who had en a faithful Servant all her Life This Cat could en any Lock, and shut it again; so she would open e Lady's Cabinet, take out Money, and lay it in e Way, where the Maid should find it, sometimes the Garden, sometimes in the Street: The Lady ssing her Money, and having no Suspicion of the aid in the least, wondered what should become of ; at last she missed her Bracelet out of her Closet,

which

which the Cat had took, and laid where the Ma
should come; so the Maid, when she found it, lit
thinking it was her Lady's put up it in her Trunk
afterwards, as the Maid was taking out Cloaths (h
Lady standing by her) the Bracelet fell beside t
Trunk; and the Cat snapt it up in her Paws, so lea
into the Lady's Lap; when the Lady saw it, s
cried out, O thou graceless Creature! I have foun
thee out: Have I kept thee so many Years, and i
trusted thee with all I had in the World, and neve
entertained the least Suspicion of thee! Who know
of what thou hast robbed me of at Times? O tho
wicked Wretch! thou shalt die the shameful'st Deat
that can be thought on. Then said the Maid, Wh
have I done; I never offended you in Though
Word, or Deed, neither wronged you in all my Li
hitherto. O treacherous Wretch! said the Lady
Is not this the Bracelet I have lost for above this ha
Year, and here it came out of thy Trunk? Who ca
tell what thou hast robbed me of besides, for I hav
lost a great deal of Money? Then she called mor
Company in, searched her Trunk further, and foun
several Pieces of Money, which she knew by Mark
When they saw that, they apprehended her, and s
sent her to Prison for Life.

This encreased the Lady's Love to the Cat, so tha
she would never eat of any Dainties at Table before
she had cut her Cat the first Bit: But upon a Time
as she sat at Dinner, she happened to forget to crav
first for her Cat, who thereupon leapt on the Lady
caught her by the Throat, and had it not been fo
the Assistance of some at the Table, the Cat ha
killed her.

The Lady being amazed hereat, said, she would
keep the Cat no longer; and when her Friends ad
vised her to destroy it, she said, She would not do i
for the Sake of the learned Mistress that gave it her

whom she soon after returned the Cat, and demanded her Daughter. The Mistress accordingly deliver'd her to the Lady, who took her in her Arms and kiss'd her, causing her to repose with her every Night; and in token of a Motherly Love to a Child, she gave her a Ring from off her Finger which she had wore many Years; but all these Favours, and the Affection she shew'd her, were not able to make her refrain from the wicked Sin of Witchcraft, and which she pursued in the following manner.

There was a Mill of the Lady's not far from the House, and every Night this Daughter, when her Mother was asleep, would go with her Associates to set the Mill a going, rip the Sacks, and throw the Corn about the Floor, at which the Miller wonder'd greatly, and complained to the Lady, saying his Mill was haunted by Evil Spirits, which would certainly be the Ruin of him.

The Lady advised him to watch one Night with a Sword and a Light to see what it was; and he did so, but about Midnight, came in a great Cat to his Shirking, and soon after five more, wawling and spitting like Devils, their Eyes shining like Coals of Fire. The Miller struck at 'em, they flew in his Face, and in a little time destroyed him. In the Morning the Lady sent to the Mill, to see how the Miller fared; but they found him dead, with his Face and Throat tore all to pieces. The next Night another watch'd, and in the Morning they went to see how he sped; they found him in the same Condition; which so amaz'd every one, that none would live in that Mill. At last there came a stout Fellow, and he would undertake to lie in the Mill, if the Lady would give him: She consented, and away goes the Fellow with a great Sword and Candle, and enters the Mill about the old hour he hears the Mill at work to the purpose; so taking his Sword and Candle in his Hand,

he

he goes to see what Guests he had got; but when he came, he saw nothing, the Mill standing still: As soon as he was gone the Mill was at it again as hard as before; then he ran back again with his Sword drawn, and there beheld six great Cats and a little one, with such sparkling Eyes staring on him, that he never saw the like before; whereupon he struck at them, and they leapt at him on every side, so that he was fain to lay about him lustily to defend himself. At last he worsted two, and they fled thro' the Window, but the rest engag'd him so furiously, that they put him almost out of Breath; at last they all fled thro' the Window, and he following close, smote the hindmost, and cut off her fore Foot: So when Day came, he went to find the Foot, but it prov'd to be a Hand with a fine Ring on the Finger; and when he saw that, he knew they were Witches, and hasted to the Lady, who ask'd him how he fared: He said, he was never so hard put to it in his Life. How so? said the Lady. Why said he, there came seven Cats, and set the Mill to work, and if I had not defended my self stoutly I had been slain by 'em; but in the End I made 'em flee, and as the last went thro' the Window, I cut off her fore Foot, and here it is. When the Lady saw that, she knew the Hand by the Ring, and she remember'd (when she awak'd) that Night she felt her Daughter come into the Bed trembling, and very cold. This Thought so terrified her, that Drops of Sweat trickled down her Face. Soon after she went to the Bed side to ask her Daughter how she did: She answer'd, I am not well, pray let me alone. Her Mother said, let me feel how your Pulse beats; but she gave her Right-hand, keeping the other in Bed. Then her Mother said, Give me the other Hand; which she refusing, her Mother took hold of her Arm by Force and found there no Hand; then knowing she was the Cat that flew at her Throat, she said, Thou

shalt

't die by the Law before thou dost any more mif-
ef O graceless Wretch! what Shame hast thou
ught upon me, having such a wicked Child! So
was sentenc'd to be burnt at a Stake. As she was
to Execution, she confess'd how she had stole the
ney and Bracelet, and laid it where the Maid found
hat she might be put to Death for Theft unjustly.
ng arrived at the Place, she was burnt to Ashes,
d the innocent Maid released out of Prison.

The Explanation *of the Example.*

Then *Radamentus* said to the Empress, Great Lady,
fear it will happen to You as it did to this Lady,
o for the Love of her only Daughter, sent her to
ool, to be instructed in virtuous Learning, but
was tutor'd by a Witch in all the Arts of Necro-
ncy.

In the first place she robbed her Mother, and
uld have laid the Theft on an innocent Maid.

Secondly, in her wicked Transformation, had she
been prevented, she had taken away her Mother's
e.

Thirdly, Her horrid Murder in the Mill.

Fourthly, the Disgrace and Shame brought upon
Mother and Family. And,

Fifthly, The utter Ruin and Destruction which
brought upon her own Soul.

n the same manner you preserve your Daughter,
suffer her to live in all her filthy and detestable
s, till the Truth of all Things shall break out, and
n certainly you'll receive utter Shame and Dis-
ce, even to the Ruin of your self and the whole
pire; therefore I advise you to cut her off while
is in the Bud, lest she prove in the end a sturdy
, and there be no cutting her down.

he Empress said, You have shewed me a good Ex-
le; the Lady giving her Daughter too much Li-

berty,

berty, she would afterwards have tore her Mother's Throat, and turned both Witch, Thief, and Murderer; but I will take care my Daughter shall never serve me so.

Next day the Empress commanded her Officers to lead her away to be burnt, who obeyed her Command; and as she was led thro' the Street, attired in White as before, with a Book in her Hand, the Trumpets sounding her dolefel Knell, the People cry'd out Alas! alas! the only Daughter of the Empress is leading to Execution. In the mean time a third Mistress (named *Circe*) came riding by; and the Princess saw her, she bowed her Head to her, much as to say, *Remember me*: Then the People gathering about her, cry'd out, O good Mistress! make haste, and by your Wisdom save your Scholar. away she hasted, and came before the Empress, paying her Reverence; to whom the Empress said, thou ungrateful Traytor! thy coming signifies nothing, for thou shalt die as shameful a Death as my wretched Daughter, and I long till I am avenged of thee and all thy most wicked Companions.

Then said the Mistress, I thought when I came to have received much better Treatment at Your Majesty's hands, and not to have been accosted in this manner. The Empress said. Do you not deserve Death? I delivered you my Daughter, to be instructed in virtuous Learning, and you have returned her again unto me dumb and graceless, insomuch that her lascivious Actions sound all over the Empire.

The Mistress replied As to the Cause of her Dumbness I must leave that to GOD, for *He maketh Dumb to speak, and the Deaf to hear*; but as to her being lascivious, I solemnly vow, that in all the time she has been with us she has never appeared to be the least addicted to any manner of Lasciviousness, and therefore, gracious Lady, if you put your Dau-

to Death for the Words of one Man, it will hap- to you as it did to a certain Knight and his God-

The Empreſs ſaid, What Knight was that? Let me r the Story. The Miſtreſs ſaid, I muſt beg Your jeſty's Excuſe, unleſs you will ſuſpend the Execu- of your Daughter, and order her to be brought k till I have related it to Your Imperial Majeſty; ich I do not doubt but your own Experience will firm for Truth hereafter. The Empreſs comply- with this Requeſt, the Miſtreſs began as follows;

The Example of the Third Miſtreſs.

There was a certain Knight, who travelling thro' range Country, chanc'd to loſe his Way in a Wood, being a great way from any Town or Village, Night coming on, he was not able to find his y out; therefore being much troubled, he began complain of his hard Fortune in a very doleful nner; and being heard by a Countryman who nc'd to be in the ſame Place, he (to the Knight's prize and Joy) iſſued from among the Thickets, ſaid, Sir, I perceive by your Complaints that u have loſt your way, and with your Horſe are angled in the Brambles of this Wood; therefore you have a great way to any Inn, and the Ways d, if you pleaſe to go with me, I will bring you my poor Cottage, and you ſhall be welcome to beſt Accommodation that it can afford. The ight courteouſly returned him Thanks, went a- g with him, and when he came to the Country- n's Cottage he ſhew'd the Knight a Chamber, and vided for his Horſe; but the Knight, being trou- d at the Succeſs of his Journey, ſate up all Night. out Midnight he heard a diſmal Outcry in the uſe, and being in ſuch a lonely Place, began to pect that ſome Danger might enſue, and ſo he knock'd

knock'd to know what was the Matte. The Ma
anſwer'd, That her Miſtreſs was in Travail. T

Knight hearing this, and being skill'd in Aſtrolo
went down to conſult the Planets, it being a brig
Star-light Night; he preſently ſaw a bad Planet g
ing down, and a good one riſing, ſignifying, if t
Child was born under the bad one, his Fortu
was to be hanged; therefore he called the Ma
and bid her deſire the Midwife, if poſſible, to ſu
pend the Delivery for one quarter of an Hour. a
the Child would be born to good Fortune: T
Maid came, and told him, that it could not poſſi
be, then he bid her go in again, and deſire the Mi
wife to delay one half Quarter of an Hour, and t
Child ſhould be born to good Fortune. But ſhe i
mediately returned, bringing him Word, That
Miſtreſs was delivered of a jolly Boy: then
Knight went in, and ſaid nothing concerning
Birth of the Child; but the next Morning the
ther of it came to him, ſaying, Sir, ſince you ha

chsafed to lodge in my House all Night, be plea- to honour me so far as to name my Child; to ch the Kniht readily consented. And when the was come, he named the Child, and writ in chment his Destiny, with a Charge also, That should pray to God continually to preserve him the impending ill Fate; so he seal'd it up with ece of Wax, and tied it about his Neck with a String, charging his Father, and all his Friends, to untie the String to read what it was, 'till such the Child was able to read it himself; desiring to keep him at School very carefully, whereby might attain to that Knowledge as to read the iting perfectly himself; and then thanking the her for the Favour done him, he took his Leave, departed.

When the Child was grown up and fit to be in- ted, he was put to Schol, and very carefully nded, 'till he was ten Years of Age, at which me he was able to read the Writing that was ut his Neck: And upon a Time as he was by nself, he took it from his Neck, and opening it d his Destiny, in these Words, *My Good Child, e God, and pray to him continually to pass this e over thee, else thy Fortune is to be hanged.* When had read this, he lifted up his Eyes to Heaven, and g'd a Blessing from the Lord, and went home y sad and melancholy, and desired of his Father give him a new Suit of Cloaths, a little Money is Pocket, and his Blessing; his Father asking him Reason of his Request, he said, Pray grant it, for ll go seek my Fortune.

His Father seeing he was resolute, said, Well, go, my Blessing be with thee; so the Boy travelled a strange Country, still praying to God to pro- him from the unhappy End which he was pre- in'd to, and at last came to a Knight's House

and

and desired a Service; the Knight demandi
What he could do? he said, Sweep your Hall, dr
Beer, and run upon your Errands; and I shall
ways be ready and willing to perform whatev
shall be found capable of. The Knight perceiv
he was a hopeful Boy, readily entertained him;
he proved very careful and diligent in whatso
he took in hand; still continuing to beseech G
at all spare Times, upon his Knees, to avert the
Fate which was foretold him. The Knight ob
ving this, soon after made him Under-Butler,
he persever'd in the same Rule, Praying to God c
tinualy; which Conduct so much pleased
Knight, that soon after his Chief Butler dying,
advanced him to succeed him; in which Place
was Obedient to his Master, Courteous to his F
low Servants, and Pleasing to all, except the Ba
and the Brewer, who murmured greatly, sayi
This Fellow has strange Luck! He was but t'ot
Day taken in as a Beggar Boy upon Charity, at
Door; soon after he was made Under-Butler;
now he is promoted to be Chief Butler; what
he come to! But this past on, he grew in Fav
still, and his Master shortly after made him Und
Steward, which Place he discharged with great
delity; and this Promotion made his two Adver
ries murmur ten times more than before: but n
withstanding, he grew still more and more in Fav
with the Knight: insomuch, that upon the Death
the Head-Steward, which happened soon after,
was preferred to his Place. This so incensed his
versaries, that from that Time they resolved u
his Destruction, which, however, had no Effect,
means of his Temper which was not affected,
ther with Pride or Ambition, but on the contra
notwithstanding his Preferments, was obliging, p
sant, humble, courteous, and familiar.

Wh

When he had to the Satisfaction of his Master charged for five Years faithfully his Trust, he de all his Accounts even, and desired Leave to see own Country; which the Knight not only con- ted to, but furnish'd him with a Horse, Money all Things necessary for his Journey, at his own pence, as a Reward of his faithful Service. Just he was going away, the Baker and the Brewer eitfully come to him, saying, they must drink to- her before they parted; and while one was drink- with him, the other slipt into his Portmanteau a ge gilt Bowl, and inclos'd it again: And soon after proceeded on his Journey, little thinking of their eachery. No sooner was he gone from the Door, r his two Adversaries seeking every where as they tended, for the Bowl, told the Knight, That it s missing, and that no Body could have it but this ward, who had often defrauded him, in the like nner, tho' he reposed such Confidence in him, that would not believe it, when they had often inform'd n of the same: And, said they, if your Worship ase to ride with us, we shall overtake the Traytor, doubt not to find the Bowl in his Custody.

The Knight accordingly rid after him, and soon rtaking him, searched his Portmanteau, and con- ry to his Expectation and Hopes, found the Bowl; reupon he said, O thou wicked Wretch, I have n told often how thou hast robbed me daily, and poverished my Estate, yet I would never believe but now I have a plain Proof of thy Disho- ly, for which thou shalt be hanged instantly at Gallows.

The young Man being amazed at this Adventure, d up, and said Of this Fact I am innocent; and u, Eternal Go. who knowest the Secrets of all ns Hearts, g t me Justice now, that thy ever- lasting

lasting Truth may take place, and his hidden Tr chery be brought to light! But finding his Prote tions signify'd nothing; and that they were lead him to the Gallows, he said, Well, now I perce that Fate is Fate, let the World go how it w which his Master hearing, asked him, What meant? He answered, When my Mother was in t vail of me, there was a strange Knight lodged in House, and foresaw my Destiny by his Skill in Ast logy, and at the Request of my Father he was God-father; and writ in a little piece of Par ment my sad Fate in these Words following: *good Child, serve God, and pray to him continu to pass this Fate over thee, else thy Fortune is t hanged*; and seeling it up in Wax, he tied it with a String, and put it about my Neck, charging my ther, that no one should read it, 'till I was capa to read it my self; wherefore I betook my self travel; and tho' I obeyed the Words in praying c tinually to God escape it, I see it doth not wi standing follow me undeservedly as you now behol

The Knight hearing this, demanded to see Writing. The young Man taking the String fr his Neck, gave it to him; who no sooner behel but he said, *O the Mercy of the Eternal God of H ven! whose Love to his Servants is incomprehensib* This is my own Hand-writing; I writ thy Desti I am thy God-Father: And now I will examine Cause better.

Then calling the two false Accusers before hi he closely and strictly examined each of them w at last confest that they stole the Cup, and put it his Portmanteau, for which they were both hang and the young Man saved.

The Mistress having thus finished her Story sa Do's your Majesty understand what I have said The Empress answered, Yes, very well, by wh

I p

perceive, that often the Wicked commit the Fact, d the Innocent are condemn'd. You have shew- me a good Example, therefore my Daughter ſhall ot die. Great Lady, ſaid the Miſtreſs, if you do you will do well, and I thank you for ſparing ur Daughter this Day for my Sake, and ſo com- end you to God.

The Fourth Complaint of Radamentus.

WHEN *Radamentus* heard the young Princeſs was not dead, he walked up and down the arden like a diſtracted Man, making ſuch a Lamen- ion that the Empreſs was informed thereof; who eſently going to him ſaid, My grave Lord and ounſellor, why do you make this moan? it is not mingly for a Man ſo well accomplish'd in Wiſdom d Gravity as you are, to break out into ſuch ſad mplaints. O Madam, ſaid *Radamentus*, why ould you tell me ſo? Would it not make a Stone mplain, to ſee that your Judgment is ſo much pified, as not to be adviſed by my grave Coun- to ſuppreſs ſuch notorious Wickedneſs as will ortly infect your whole Court and Empire? O at I had died before I had come into theſe Parts! what Honour or Reputation I ever gained for- rly, I ſhall now receive ten times as much Shame d Diſhonour; and I fear it will happen to you it did to a Lady in *Theſſaly* with her Hound Then ſaid the Empreſs, I pray ſhew me how that , for my Inſtruction. If I do, ſaid *Radamentus*, ould avail nothing; for I ſhewed you one Yeſter- , and it had no Effect nevertheleſs, I will re- rſe this, which is as follows.

The Fourth EXAMPLE of Radamentus.

N *Rome* there lived a great Lady who had ſuch a famous Park of Deer, that the like was not in he Land; and having a very gallant Hound,

presented her by an extraordinary good Huntsman he appointed a Hunting Day for the Tryal of him which being arrived, they rouzed a Buck, and followed the Chace, up the Hills, down the Dales, though the Thickets, Brakes and Bogs, insomuch that the like was never known in that Part of the World: For the Dogs hunted upon hot Scent seven Days together, 'till all the Followers were tired both Foot and Horse, and left the whole Game to the Hound, yet still the Buck maintain'd his Ground and the Hound his Chace, throughout the Kingdom of *Thessaly*, above three hundred Miles an end, so that the Lady and her Attendants gave them both over for lost. Soon after a Letter came from the King of *Macedonia*, who knowing how much she admired Hunting, informed her therein; That there was a Buck chased through some of his Dominions by a Hound; and that they were returned into *Thessaly* again.

The Lady had scarce perus'd the Contents of the Letter, when her Keeper brought in word, That the Hound and the Buck had leaped over the Wall, and overjoyed, ran into the Park to see them, and perceived that the Buck had leaped over the Wall, and not being able to go any further, fell down; the Hound also through Faintness fell down on the same side of the Wall, at a small Distance from the Buck.

Then said the Keeper, This Buck is the best Runner in *Thessaly*; and the Lady commended the Hound for the best in the World; which was also admired by all the Lords of *Thessaly*, for his good Properties among which one was, That he loved that Park of Deer ever after, and especially the Buck whom he had chased; insomuch, That it was observable, he would constantly every Night go to defend them from Wolves, and all other ravenous Creatures, of his own Accord; so that such a Dog was never heard of before.

Not long a[illegible] [illegible]untsman which gave [illegible]e Lady this b[illegible] [illegible], persented her with a Wolf-dog, young a[illegible] [illegible]er, and of a most curious Shape and Form, which also won the Affections of the Lady so wonderfully, that she loved him as she loved her Life; and if at any Time any Body praised him above the Hound, she would rejoyce and give them great Rewards; so that her Love to the Hound began to decline; for he used to quarrel with her young Dog, they being of contrary Natures, for which she would kick him and much despise him; but the young Dog grew apace, well featur'd, and beautiful.

Not far from the Co[illegible]rt lived Seven Wise Mistresses, whom she sent for to pass their Judgments upon this Dog. And the first said, It was the finest Dog that ever she saw, and he would make a good

hunter: The second said, It was the comliest Dog that ever she saw, and he would make a stately keeper: The third said, It was the tallest Dog that

ever she saw, and would ncely Game: The fourth said, It was the Dog that ever she saw; and would be a brave Companion in a Forest: The fifth said, It was the most watchful Dog that ever she saw, and was fit to keep a Treasury. The sixth said, It was a Dog in her Judgment that exceeded all others. And the seventh said, It was a Dog, that if well taught and kept, the whole World could not afford his Equal.

Then said the Lady, I thank you all for the great Commendations you give my Dog, and I shall prize him as I do the greatest Jewel I have; but I have an excellent Hound besides, which of his own Accord doth watch my Deer every Night, and preserve them from Wolves and all savage Beasts, and they two can never agree. Then said the first Mistress, The Hound is somewhat ancient, and probably will not lieve long; the Wolf-dog is young and lusty; and the best of his Days are to come; and since they cannot live both together quietly, it is expedient one should die; therefore let the Hound be destroyed

The Lady pursued this Advice; and soon after the Hound was dead, many Deer were lost out of the Park, so that they put the Wolf-dog to watch; but for all that, a Deer in two or three Nights was constantly lost, to the Lady's great Astonishment; who therefore set a Man to watch all Night in a Tree to observe what Beast came to destroy her Deer. By the Light of the Moon, the Man discovered the Wolf-dog, upon a lusty Buck, having tore his Throat.

When the Morning came, the Lady sent for him to know What he had seen? and the said, It is even your own Wolf-dog, whom you put to watch them for I saw him in the Night seize upon a stately Buck, and devour him, so that nothing is left but his Bones, Then the Lady began to complain, say in

ing, Alas! have I destroyed the Shepherd, and put a Wolf in his Stead! Have I then, thro' the wicked Advice of Seven foolish Women, hanged my good and trusty Hound, which look'd to my Herd, and preserved them from the devouring Wolves; and put a ravenous Murtherer of my Deer to keep the Park? and with these Words she struck the Dog three or four Blows with a Cane: The Masterless Cur grumbled as if he had been a Lyon; Then said the Lady, How now Deer-killer! and struck him again; but before she struck the fifth Blow, he seized upon her Breast, and slew her before the Eyes of her Servants, who then cursed the Counsellors which advised the Lady to keep the Wolf-dog, and kill the good Hound.

Then said *Radamentus*, Now Madam, I will apply this.

The Declaration *of the* EXAMPLE.

THE Lady who took such a delight in Hunting signifieth your self, who delight in vertuous Recreation; insomuch, that all the Kings of the Earth hear of your Fame, as the King of *Macedonia* did of your Game. The large and spacious Park is your Empire, and the Deer therein are your Subjects; the good Hound watching them, is your wise and good Discretion, defending them from ravenous Wolves, and keeping us in Peace and Safety from the bloody Hands of cruel Tyrants. The fair and masterless Wolf-dog is your stubborn and graceless Daughter, who by her ill Example, will delude all your good Subjects, and in the End destroy them as the Wolf-dog did the Deer.

The seven Foolish Women that counselled the Lady to kill the good Hound, and let the Wolf-dog live, are your Seven Wise Mistresses, who daily labour to persuade you to suppress your Vigilancy

and wise Care of your Subjects, and let your lascivious Daughter live, whereby she may reign in bloody Tryanny, and glut he self with the Flesh of your People. The Man in the Tree, who discovered the Dog killing the Deer, was my self in my Chamber Window, espying your Daughter, (that shameless Wretch!) in the Garden under a Tree committing the foul Sin of Fornication; for which detestable and abominable Act she ought to die according to the Law; for if she lieve, she will, by her scandalous Life, give such a base Example, as will delude and destroy many others: And if you should correct her slightly, she will devour you as the Wolf-dog did the Lady.

Then the Empress said, The Dog that the Lady loved so dearly, tore her Throat at last; but my Daughter shall not do so; And forthwith she commanded her Officers to lead her to the Stake. And as she was led through the Streets with Trumpets sounding her dolerul Funeral, all the People ran out grievously crying, Alas! alas! the Empress's only Daughter is led again to the Stake.

Then the fourth Mistress hasted away to the Empress's, and kneeled before her, desiring to hear the Empress, who said, O thou wicked old Wretch! Death shall be thy Reward, for debauching my Daughter as you have done. I deliver'd her to you hopeful, modest, and well manner'd; and you return'd her again to me ill taught; full of Vice, Dumb, and a shameless Whore, for which this Day she is to die, to the Disparagement of the Empire, and Disgrace of all her Family; would to GOD the Day of her Birth had been the Day of her Burial.

O gracious Lady, said the Mistress, I little thought of this Treatment! surely I have not deserved the least of this your Displeasure: The Cause of the Dumbness of your Daughter, I commit to

GOD

GOD, and in a little time you shall know the Reason of it; but as to her being accused to have committed the foul Sin of Fornication, that is false, and not to be prov'd; therefore you ought not to put your only Daughter to Death for the Words of one single Person; for the Laws ordain, That there shall be two Witnesses in Cases of Life and Death: And if you put her to Death for one Man's Accusation, it will happen worse to you than to a certain Queen, who for putting too much Confidence in her Counsellors, had her only Daughter cut in pieces before the Altar and her self afterwards stoned to Death.

The Empress desiring to hear this Story, the Mistress said, That, Madam, I cannot do unless you send for your Daughter back again, otherwise she may be dead before I make an End, and then should talk to you in vain. Then the Empress commanded her to be brought back again, and put in Prison while the Mistress spake as followeth:

The Example of the Fourth Mistress.

IN the Kingdom of *Thrace*, reigned a famous Queen, named *Hecuba* who was wise and peaceable, but the King of *Lydia* being a turbulent and ambitious Prince, brought against her a numerous and mighty Army. She therefore to defend her self, fortify'd her chief City with a double Wall, strong Bulwarks, moated it round with a deep Ditch, and put therein a good Garrison, well provided with all Necessaries for a long Defence.

The King of *Lycia*, finding nothing else to oppose him, besieged it; whereupon the Queen gave private Instructions to *Anthenor* and *Æneas*, her chief Counsellors, who immediately assembled the Citizens, to advise her to preserve their City, and make their Enemies raise the Siege: And when they had planted their Guards, to favour their Retreat, *Anthenor*

Athenor issued out with Ten thousand Men, and mad a great Slaughter of the Enemies, and so returne back into the City. The Enemy being again recruited, attempted to scale the Walls but were driven back by the Citizens: Then *Æneas* went out, tough

with great Valour, but lost many Men, and so returned to the Town.

At last *Anthenor* addressed himself to the Quee and said, It were good to consult Peace with t Enemy, because she had lost many Persons of H nour, among whom were the Queen's two Kinsme for whom they made great Lamentation; and the fore he advised the Queen to conclude a Peace, t the Enemies might depart without destroying t City; assuring her, That they could not maintain against such an invincible Power. (though the C was well fortified, and had a Garrison in it sufficie to repulse twice as many.) The Queen believi these two evil Counsellors, who proved the most p fidious Traytors, demanded, Who were best t treat for them?

Then *Æneas* stood up, and said, If it pleaſe your Majeſty, and all you Citizens, for the Honour of the Queen, the Safeguard of our City, and the Preſervation of our Lives, *Anthenor* and I, upon ſo weighty a Matter as this, will go forth. The Queen approved what he ſaid, repoſing more Confidence in them than any other, and the Citizens alſo were well pleaſed with it.

Then *Anthenor* and *Æneas* went forth, and found-ed a Parley and the Enemies Heralds came and con-ducted them to the Camp; where being come, *An-thenor* ſaid, We have prevail'd upon the Queen our Miſtreſs to ſuffer us to propoſe and conclude a Truce with you; but if you will grant our Demands, we will betray the City into your Hands: The Ene-mies promiſing to grant their Demands, *Anthenor* ſaid, You ſhall give us Ten thouſand Pounds, continue to us all our Privileges and Dignities, ſave the Lives of all our Friends and Kindred, and pre-ſerve to them and to us, all our Houſes, Lands, and Poſſeſſions. Then ſaid the Enemies, All theſe Things are granted, and we are ready to ſwear the Confir-mation of it; which they immediately did: Said *Anthenor*, We muſt be very private in this Thing, and make a counterfeit Truce with ye, and you muſt anſwer our Meſſage thus;

That you require a hundred thouſand Pounds to pay your Army, and Ten thouſand Meaſures of Wheat to make them Bread, and to ſet up a Wood-en Horſe within the City in the Temple of *Miner-va*. This Horſe, ſaid *Anthenor*, muſt be made hol-low, and able to contain a Thouſand armed Men, and when it is in the Temple, and you have re-ceiv'd your Money and Wheat, I will give you a Signal by a Light on the Wall; and when you ſee that, advance with all your Army on the back-ſide of the Town, and we will open the Gates to you:

Then

Then do with the City, as you please; only remember *Æneas* and I, and our Contract; Having said this, they took their Leave of them, promising to make their Report to the Queen, and return the Answer the next Day. They accordingly told the Queen what the Enemies demanded, which was a hundred thousand Pounds, and ten thousand Measures of Wheat, and they would depart home into their own Country, only leaving behind them the Wooden Horse, which they had provided as a *Memorandum*, or Mark of Conquest.

Then the Queen sighed greatly, and said, What have I lost so many of my dearest Friends, and must I be constrained to pay so much Money and Wheat to my Enemies, and hire them to go home into their own Country? O woe is me that ever I was born! But since it must be so, go tell them, *Anthenor*, I do grant their Demands.

Then *Anthenor* and *Æneas* went forth again, and said to the Enemies, your Request is granted, according to all that we have contrived, and you are to appoint the Day to receive the Money, and When that it may be got ready against the time.

The Day being accordingly set, and every thing ready, they drew the Wooden Horse into the City, and placed it in the Temple; and the next Day drew off from the City. The Citizens beleiving they were in a full March towards their own Country, being before much fatigued, made great Rejoycings and afterward with great Security took their Repose.

But about Midnight, when all where dead asleep, *Anthenor* went to the Wooden Horse, and call'd forth the thousand armed Men, and *Æneas* went upon the back Tower, and held up a blazing Torch to give Intelligence to the Enemy; who came and enter-

he Town so that all the Stree s were instantly full. Then the bloody Traytors, *Anthenor* and *Æneas*, hewed them their Houses and Poss ssi ns never expressing the least Regard for the Innocent Queen, who ad a fair and beautiful Daughter named *Prolixene*, whom the wicked *Anthenor* would have ravisht some ime before the Siege, and she resisting, made him in his manner to effect their utter D.struction

The Queen and her Daughter being t Prayers hey heard a woeful Noise in the City; which immediately inspired them with a Jealousie of wicked *Anthenor's* Treachery: So the Queen ran into the Temple, and the young Princess *Prolixene* ran and id her self in an old Tower, by which Time the Enemy had left neither Men, Woma , nor Child hroughout the whole City. Soon after, the perfidious *Anthenor* came to the Temple, and seeing the Queen there, asked, Where her Daughter was? she eply'd, O ungrateful Traytor! Are not thy wicked Bowels glutted yet with innocent Blood, but must hou seek to destroy my beloved Daughter! Then eaving the distressed Q ee , he went to the old Tower, and finding there the young Princess, he ragg'd her out by the Hair of the Head, and gave er to the Enemy, who led her to the Alta , and before her Mother's Eyes, cruelly cut her into Quarers, and scatter'd them about the Temple: At this orrid Sight, the Queen fell d wn in a Swoon; Out f which being at last somewhat recover'd, she said, Now, Villains! glut your selves with Blood. So earing the Hair off her Head, and the Cloaths from er Body, she ran stark mad. And soon after the Barbarians carried her into a strange Island, and there ruelly ston'd her to Death; and afterwards burning er City to the Ground, they return'd home into heir own Country.

The Mistress having thus ended her Story, said

to the Empress, You see, Madam, the Mischief of blindly following the Advice of evil Counsellors by this Instance of the Queen of *Thrace*, who confiding too much in the fair Pretences of two perfidious Traytors, came at last to have her Daughter cut in pieces before her own Eyes, her self stoned to Death, her Subjects massacred, and her whole City destroyed: Therefore be advised, and put not your only Daughter thus to Death for the Words of one Counsellor, lest it happen to you as it did to the harmless Queen. The Empress said, You have shewn me a good Example, though it grieves my Heart to think of it, for they were the wicked'st Counsellors that ever were; surely I will take no such Advice, for my Daughter shall not die. The Mistress said, If your Majesty adhere to this Resolution, you will do wisely, and I thank you for sparing your Daughter this Day for my sake; and so I commit you to God.

The fifth Complaint *of* Radamentus.

Radamentus hearing the young Princess was not dead, immediately retired into his Chamber, sighing and lamenting most bitterly, and caused all his Apparel and Equipage to be made ready, as though he was just going to return into his own Country: The Servants perceiving this, acquainted the Empress, that their Lord *Radamentus* was preparing to return into his own Country; who thereupon hastened to his Chamber, and said to him, O my grave Lord, I thought you had been more tender of my Safety, and regardful of the Good of the Empire than to go and leave me thus: To which he answered, 'Tis true, Madam, I tender your Welfare as much as my Life, and you cannot but be sensible That your Glory, and the Safety of the Empire, have ever been the chief Objects of my Care; but as I have now the Unhappiness to see your Majesty engag-

in such Resolutions, as will render entirely useless all my Care, and which tend to the utter Subversion of Virtue, which is the most solid Foundation of all States, I cannot but resolve to quit your Majesty's Court, lest the World, who know that I have the Honour to be your chief Counsellor, should censure me as an Incourager of the Vice and Debauchery which reigns, by Means of your wicked Daughter, in your very Court. I had rather, Madam, continued *Radamentus*, with a dissembling Sigh, hear of your Ruin, than see it; for you will be ruled by the Words of the foolish Mistresses, 'till at last it happen to you as it did to a *Roman* Lady and her Daughter, of which I could give you a very good Instance.

The Empress desiring to hear it for her Information, he said, Though I shew you all the Examples in the World, and give you all the Advice I am capable of, and it tend even to the Preservation both of your Life and Empire, as indeed it doth, yet you will not follow my Counsel. Nevertheless I will relate this to you, hoping, that henceforth you will not delight to hear the Mistresses, whose idle Fables subvert your wise Judgment.

The fifth EXAMPLE *of* Radamentus.

IN the famous City of *Rome* there lived a certain Lady, whose Worth and Renown were spread throughout the whole Empire; for she was virtuous in Conversation, modest in Behaviour, gracious to her Servants, and in reference to the Poor, endowed with an excellent Spirit of Liberality; so that she had the Prayers of all: This Lady had two beautiful Daughters; the Eldest of which she kept home with her, and the Youngest she put abroad, to be taught and instructed.

In

In process of Time, his Lady sent for her Daughter; expecting she had learnt much for the future Conduct of her Life; but when she came home, alas! she was never the better, which extreamly troubled her; insomuch, that she to have her immediately under her own Eye, kept her at home, and sent the Eldest abroad; which being done, this young Girl began to do nothing but play, taking what Liberty she pleased: And being at last grown to Maturity, she would not go abroad without much Money; which her Mother was obliged to give her from time to time: But she had ways to spend more than her Mother allow'd her, if it had been twice as much, for she kept a private Lover in the City, and many Nights, when her Mother was asleep, she would take the Keys from under her Head and go out to her Lover, and towards break of Day come in again, her Mother not perceiving it. But on a Time, wondring how her Daughter came to be so cold, she asked her the Reason of it? Who answer'd, The Cramp had taken her in the Leg, and being loth to 'wake her, she arose and walk'd about the Chamber to drive it away; so that the Excuse past for current.

The next Night, missing her out of Bed, she put up her Hand to feel for her Keys, but they were gone; so when she came in about Break of Day again, she said, O, Daughrer! Where have you been now? Truly, said she, I had a Tooth did ake so grievously, that I thought I should have died, and you being fast asleep, I was loth to disturb you, therefore I took the Keys, and went to the Chirurgeon to draw it, but I could not make him hear me: So this second Excuse past as current as the former.

Another Time, finding the Key of her Mother's Cabinet, she prest it in Wax, from the Impressi-

f which she had another Key made, whereby she ould go to the Cabinet of Money when she pleased, Her Mother often mised Money, but little thought f her own Daughter; sometimes fathering the rime upon the Maid, sometimes upon the Man; so hat the Family was always at Strife and Variance.

But at length it happened, that the Daughter going to her Mother's Cabinet for more Money, went way, and left her Key behind her in the Cabinet: Her mother seeing a Key therein, and knowing she ad her own in her Pocket, let it alone, and watch'd ehind the Curtain to see who would fetch it out; By-and by in comes her Daughter, and snatcht the Key out; but her Mother catcht hold of her, and aid, O graceless Wretch! is it thou that hast robb'd ne these two Years together! Now I have found hee out: O wicked Creature! Thou hast been often accused to me, but I would never believe it ow I see it, for which thou shalt die a shameful Death.

At that time there lived not far off, an old Woman, who used to give Advice to this wicked Daughter in all her base Pranks, and therefore in this time f Necessity she sent for her to come, and by her raft and Cunning, to try to save her Life.

When the old Woman was arrived, she said, O irtuous Lady! Be not so furiously bent against her: he is your Daughter, born of your own Body, whom ou have nourish'd many Months at your Breast, and e are all guilty of Faults in our Youth; therefore t her not come to Shame for the first Crime. The vere Law will forgive a Malefactor for the first ault; much more then ought a natural Mother to for a Child; and you should consider, if you put r to Death, it will be a great Disgrace to all her amily, and you will be branded for Tryanny: Upn these Words, the good Mother was pacified. and don'd her,

It happen'd afterwards, as the Lady was walkin in the Evening in her Garden, she espied her Daugh ter lying with a strange Man under a Tree: A which sight crying out with a loud Voice, she sai O thou lascivious Creature! worse than any Bea I have pardon'd thee for Theft already, and now tho art fallen into Whoredom; if I suffer this, all Pe ple will curse me; and therefore thou shalt die.

Then the old Woman came again, and said, good Lady save her Life: Consider she is young an what she hath done, is through Ignorance and Foo ishness; but remember the old Proverb, *A naugh Girl may make a good Woman*; and the Scriptu saith: *He that is without a Fault, let him cast t first Stone*; therefore hide her Shame this Time, and ever she commit the like again, do your Pleasure.

Through these foolish Persuasions, the good L dy again pardon'd her: but said to the old Wom is very seldom that any who are addicted Theft and Whoredom escape being guilty of the S of Murther also: God grant I may never hear of su a Thing by her; for I am much afraid of it.

The good Lady then to prevent this, kept her wit in Doors so strictly, that she could not go abroad her Lover to feed him with Money as she used do, therefore he would come and speak to her throu the Window, from whence she threw him many her Mother's Pieces of Plate and other valuab Things; which made the Lady wonder how h Goods should be lost, and her Daughter never to out of Doors any farther than the great Windo where she observed she stood every Night

But soon after, the Lady her self standing und that Window late, to hear the pretty Nightinga warble forth her melodious Notes, her Daugh supposing she had been her Lover, threw out t great Silver Cup. The Lady perceiving out of wh

Wind

indow it came, took it up, and having sent for her
ughter down, she bid her go fetch her a Cup of
ne; she answer'd, she had been looking for that
p, and it could not be found Then the Lady
k the Cup, and shewed it to her, saying, Wilt thou
ver leave thy Tricks, thou graceless Wretch! now
u shalt certainly die a shameful Death, the just
ward of thy Demerits.

The old Woman hearing this, came in all haste,
eeching the Lady to save her Life but once more,
d she would undertake to reclaim her, and bring
to Goodness her self: Upon which the Lady par-
n'd her once more

But soon after, the Daughter marry'd her Lover
ho was a poor scandalous Fellow, and both a
ief and a Murtherer) without her Mother's Con-
, who refused to give her any Portion; where-
n she consulted with the old Woman what to do,
ving no Means to subsist upon. She advis'd her
take a little Poyson Ball, and when her Mother
lled for Beer, to put in two Drams of it, saying
at will dispatch your Mother, and then you may
e all.

The wicked Daughter joyfully put this Advice
Execution; and gave her Mother the fatal Portion
ose Bowels being almost burnt up by the Poyson,
call'd for more Drink, to asswage the scorching
in; whereupon her Daughter put some more of
e poyson'd Ball into the Cup, and gave her Mo-
r, who drinking the same, immediately dropt
wn dead; having lived to the Age of Fourscore
d Ten, in the Love and Applause of all good Peo-
e: For which horrid Fact the wicked Wretch was
erwards deservedly burnt at a Stake.

Then said the Empress, This was the wicked'st
ugh er that I ever heard of. To prevent such
ischiefs, my Daughter shall not live a Day longer.

And

And saying this, she commanded her Officers to l her away to be burnt: And as she was lead through the Streets, to the Grief of all the Peo the Fifth Mistress met her, and hasten'd awa the Empress, and being arriv'd, she did her Re rence; to whom the Empress said, You are co but it shall be at the Price of your Life. T Mistress answer'd, O Madam, I have not deser to die; for your Daughter hath not committed Crimes which are laid to her Charge, as hereaf you shall find; and the Reason that she does speak is owing to her Wisdom and Knowledge will be shortly evident to all the World: An you put her to Death for the Words of one M an will happen to you worse than it did to the Qu of *China*.

Then said the Empress, Pray shew me that Ex ple: That I shall not do, said the Mistress, un you call your Daughter back again; for be or make an end, your Daughter might be dead. Th the Empress commanded her to be brought ba and the Mistress, whose Name was *Deborah*, b as follows:

The EXAMPLE of the Fifth Mistress.

IN *China* reigned a virtuous Queen Renown far and near for her great Wisdom and Discre on; who was espoused to a great Eastern King, t had a grave Counsellor, without whose Advice wou'd do nothing.

Soon after their Marriage, there arose a gr Rebellion in the King's Country, whereby he w constrained to go to suppress the rude Multitud which taking up some Time, his Queen grew with Child; and this Counsellor, whom the K left to advise her, wrote a Letter to his Master, T she was very familiar with a Nobleman in the Co wh

se Name was *Palmedis*, and that he believed t she went withal was a Bastard. This did he ugh wicked Treachery, thinking to himself, the g was ancient, and would be the sooner inspir'd Jealousy, and if he could kill the Queen and Child she went withal, the King could not live ; and then, thought he, I shall rule the Land.

ow when the King had received this Letter, he ed home, and accusing this virtuous Queen of lery, he would not suffer her to come into his pany: Then this treacherous Counsellor went he Queen, pretending Friendship, and advised to go in a facetious way, and present the King wl of Wine; The Queen always thinking he been a most faithful Friend, did as he had ad- her; but before she brought it, he wrote a er and dropt it in the King's Chamber; which fy'd, That if the Queen at such a Time did ent him with a Bowl of Wine, he was a dead n, for it was Poyson: And as the Queen came ith innocent Love, presenting the King with Bowl of Wine, he kickt it all down, saying, u wicked Wretch! now I do perceive thy vile ions; thou hast defiled my Bed, and defamed my nour, and art thou now come to Poyson me? I r thou shalt die the cruellest Death that can thought of: So he committed her to Prison, and he lay there she breached out these Complaints:

Fortune! Why hast thou used me thus? I am ing's Daughter, and was born to govern a flu- g Kingdom, but instead of a Palace with rich mes, I am choaked up in a Dungeon of filthy : When I thought to be embraced in Princely , and courted with Royal Salutations, I am confed with slanderous Crimes that the Gods I am innocent of!

And

And thus, through Grief and Sorrow, her Ti
being near, she fell into Travail, and was delive
of a comely Girl: Which News being brought
the King, he said, Take the Brat and throw
into the Sea. When the Messenger came and t
the Queen, she wrung her lily-white Hands,
the Tears gushed from her Crystal Eyes, runn
down her rosy Cheeks, and said. Ah! Wretc
Babe! hardly conceived in the Womb, before en
ed, and now scarcely Born, before thy Death is
termined! And must the wide Ocean be thy N
sery, the raging Waves thy rocking Cradle,
Firmament thy Canopy, and the Jaws of *Nept*
thy Grave! O! then let the Gods of Fortune
thy Guide, and the whistling Billows sing thy L
laby! So kissing her tender Lips, and bathing th
with the brinish Tears she delivered the Infant
the Messenger, who, by order of the King, pu

into a Cock-boat, covering it with green Lea
and launched it forth on the roaring Billows.

frer it had been for a considerable Time waf-
about by the tempestuous Surges, it was at last
ashore in a remote part of the same Country,
ong the Sands. Long it had not been there,
re a Shepherd coming that way to look for a
y, Sheep the Child cry, and thi king it had
his Sheep browsing upon the Edge of the Rocks,
asted down to see, and there found the Cork-
t rested upon the Sea-sand; so he took the
ld, and bred it up, and it grew to be the beau-
'st Girl in the World: And the Shepherd, in
ess of Time, set her upon the Mountains to
Sheep.

Upon a Time, it chanced, that, that King her Fa-
came a Hunting that way, and looking upon
was so surprized with her Beauty, that he said,
Shepherdess, What Family do you belong to?
are you some rural Goddess descended from
r Abode, to keep Sheep for your Recreation on
th? She answer'd, I am a poor Shepherd's
ghter, and bred up in yonder Cottage: Then
the King, Fair Virgin, will you leave your
ck, and come to Court? There your Eyes shall
avished with triumphant Shews, and your Ears
ghted with melodious Musick: You shall drink
of Gold, and be cloathed in Purple.

he reply'd, The sweetest Musick she delighted
was the bleating of the Sheep, and the finest
ws, their new-shorn Fleeces; a Shepherd's Weed
said, was a greater Satisfaction to her than Pur-
; and a Wooden Dish more fit for her Quality
n Gold.

he King being much pleased with her Humili-
nd ready Answers, went to the old Shepherd,
demanded, whose Daughter she were? He an-
red, She were his. Nay, said the King, that
not be, for her Countenance shews her to be of a
Princely

Princely Race: and if you do not tell me Truth, you shall die a cruel Death,

Then commanding him to be led to the Gall the Shepherd fell down upon his Knees, and sought the King that he would spare his Life, he would tell him. The King bidding him de he said, Upon a Time, as I was by the Sea- looking for a stray Sheep, I heard something and supposing it had been the Sheep that I misse went to see, and there I found a small Boat Waves had cast ashore, and therein a Child w ed in a Scarlet Mantle, in which was a Scro Writing, containing these Words:

Whosoe'er thou art that shalt this Infant find,
Make much of it, and to the same be kind;
For she to mighty Fortune may thee bring,
Being only Daughter to a Royal King:
Then bring her up as if she were thy Daughter,
And thou shalt be rewarded well hereafter.

When the King heard this he knew she was Daughter whom he commanded to be thrown the Sea and said, Since the Gods and Fortune h favoured her, I have no Reason to hate her; And giving the Shepherd great Rewards, he comma her be brought home to the Palace, and clo in a most splendid Garb making her sit at his r Hand. After that, he dispatched four of his No men to the Island of *Delphos*, to enquire of the O cle of *Appollo*, whether the Queen were guilty of Charge laid against her? When the Noblemen c into the Temple before the Oracle, they did R rence, and the Oracle spake as follows:

Stand here two Hours, and speak not one Word,
the third Hour you shall find on the backside of

Or

Oracle, a Scroll of Parchment sealed up; that take, and haste away to the King; but presume not to break it open 'till you come into the Judgment-hall, before all the Counsel; and there the King shall find the Truth written.

hen they did their Obeysance; and having e as the Oracle commanded, they took shipping soon arrived in their own Country. When they e before the King, they acquainted him with t the Oracle had commanded them to do, and hwith the King assembled all his Lords into the gment-hall, every one expecting a sad Doom for Quee; but when the Scroll was broke open read, it proved thus:

Queen is Innocent. Her Child is lawfully betten. The old Counsellor is the Traytor: And e Kinz shall die without an Heir, if Equity nd Justice take not Place.

hen the Council heard this, they all rejoyced, the King sent immediately for his Queen out of on; but the Messenger brought him Word back, t the Queen was dead. Then the King fell a ping and wringing his Hands, saying, O what a rable Wretch am I, that believed such an Old ed Traytor as I have done! O woe is me that as born! My Child had been drowned in the Sea not good Fortune preserv'd her, and now I have ed my virtuous and innocent Queen by an unjust cruel Imprisonment, through the Advice of a cherous old Villain But; he shall die the miserat Death that can be thought of. And immediy he commanded four wild Horses to be brought, tying each of his Hands and Legs, to the several ts of the Horses, they drew him Limb from

Limb

Limb, his Quarters were thrown to the Beasts the Field, and Fowls of the Air, as a just Rew for his Treachery.

Soon after this, the King erected the richest Tom that ever was seen, for his Queen, and command all the Lords and Barons of the Land to appear her Funeral, which was solemnized in extraordina State, and her Corps was honourably interr'd in Chappel; and upon her Tomb he caused to be graven these Words:

By Means of a perfidious Traytor, I
Have caus'd in Prison my good Queen to die:
In Token of my Grief, and great Respect,
I to her Memory this Tomb erect;
Which will her Virtue vindicate, and be
A Warning how a King's misled like me.
And Whosoe'er thou art that passith by,
Curse him that caus'd my virtuous Queen to die.

Then said the Empress, you have shewed me good Example to beware of bad Counsel; theref my Drughter shall not die: And the Mistress parted from her with a joyful Heart.

The Sixth Complaint of Radamentus.

WHEN *Radamentus* perceived that the you Princess was reprieved again, he grew so i patient, that every one thought he would have mad; therefore they ran and told the Empress, T *Radamentus* was going beside himself; for they ver saw him before in such a Frantick Humo Then the Empress went to him and said, Whe fore, my good Lord, are you so impatient? He swered, O Madam! how can I hide my Grie The great Love I owe your Majesty prevents from leaving you, and if I stay, I see nothing

R

nio and Destruction ready to fall upon you, for ffering such base and lascivious Actions, commit- by your graceless Daughter, and not suppressed cording to Law, as makes me ashamed to go out the Sight of the Sun: My Advice, which you ght to receive, you slight; and rather believe the d Wives Fables: Therefore I fear it will happen you worse than it did to the Lady, who ten- r'd her young Lyon 'till at last he tore her Throat. my good Lord, said the Empress, shew me that xample; He reply'd I will readily obey your jesty; but it signifies nothing; for to morrow Mistresses will again amuse your Ears with some bulous Story or other, and then you will pardon ou. Daughter as before: But however, at your jesty's Command, I will relate this one Story ore, hoping that it will have its due Weight with ou.

The Sixth EXAMPLE *of* Radamentus.

IN the Kingdom of *Persia* lived a Lady, who be ing with Child longed for a young Lyon, for hich a strict Search was made all over *Asia*. At st a Nobleman being a Hunting in a wild Forest anced to catch a Lyon's Whelp, and sent it to the dy, who no sooner receiv'd it, but fell in La- our and was delivered of a Boy, in whom she pla- d her chief Delight. She also took a great Liking the Lyon, whom she always kept by her, feed- g it with all the Dainties she possibly could get, d the Lyon would follow her up and down the ouse, and seem'd as tame as a Dog: At last he ould walk abroad, and run among the Sheep, but ddle with none, (because he was continually fed th such Dainties, that he had no occasion to kill Sheep.) Which made the Lady love him so ich the more, tending him as she did her Child.

But upon a Time, the Lady going from Home and committing the Charge of her young Lyon t her Maid; she gave him not the Attendance he Lady did; wherefore he ran out among the Flock and slew one of the best Sheep therein, and devoured him.

When the Lady came Home, the Shepherd complain'd to her, and said, The Lyon has slain one o

the best Sheep in the Flock; but the Lady would not believe it, till the Steward came and verified it; then said the Lady, Alas! if he has slain one of the Flock, it is but by chance; for he is a Whelp, and knew not what he did; but if we catch him again doing such a Trick, we will correct him for it.

A little time after, he came into the Flock and slew two, and devoured as much as he could, and what was left a Greyhound of the House found and eat. The Lyon being come Home first, and got to his Couch, there was no suspicion of him by

but the poor Grey hound coming Home with his Chaps all bloody, the Shepherd laid all the Blame upon him; wherefore the Lady commanded him to be killed; which verifies the old Proverb, *It is safer for some to steal a Horse, than others too look over the Hedge.*

The third time the Lyon went to the Flock, he slew three, and glutted himself with their Blood: Then the Shepherd complained the second Time of him, but could have no Redress, the Lady still pardoning him, hoping he would mend. But the fourth time he fell among the Flock, he slew and wounded above twenty; which made every Body blame very much the Lady, for keeping a ravenous Beast to destroy so good a Flock: Yet she would not kill him, nor hardly give Credit to what they said, but being perswaded she could reclaim him, she kept him in her Chamber close for two or three Days, and he lay just by the Cradle where her young Son was.

It happened one Morning, that his Wrath began to rise, and his Eyes seemed as red as Blood, and walking up and down the Chamber, he smelt to the Cradle where the Infant lay, and at last jumpt upon him, and tearing him all to pieces, eat him before the Mother's Face. Then the Lady wrung her Hands, and cursed the Time she refused to kill him. But that did not satisfie the Savage Beast; for after he had dispatch'd the Child, he leapt upon the Lady, and tore her Joint from Joint; and when the Servants hearing her cry out ran up, and look'd through the Key-hole, all the Chamber was full of Blood.

Radamantus having thus ended his Example, said, I fear, Madam, it will happen to you as it did to this poor Lady, in tendering and saving your wicked Daughter, notwithstanding the Crime she is guilty

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ty of; so that when she comes to have Power, she will destroy your Subjects the good Sheep, and after bring you to a miserable End. Then said the Empress, Surely that shall not be, for to Morrow my Daughter shall die.

The Morning being come, she commanded her Officers to lead her away to the Stake. While all the People were lamenting the Fate of the Princess, as she was led to Execution, the Sixth Mistress appeared in sight, and hasten'd to the Palace with all speed; whither being come, the Empress disdainfully look'd upon her, and threatned, That she should die with her Daughter.

The Mistress said, I have not deserv'd this at your Majesty's Hands; and as for your Daughter, you shall certainly hear her speak for her self within three Days, and then all the Truth will come to light; but if you put her to Death for the malicious Accusation of one Man, it will surely happen worse to you than it did to the Princess of *Burgundy* who by the Advice of an evil Counsellor would have put to Death her own Daughter, but that she was prevented, and the Treason happily discover'd.

The Empress desired to hear that Story, and the Princess being recall'd, the Mistress began as follows:

The EXAMPLE of the Sixth Mistress.

THERE lived in *Burgundy* a fair Widow Princess of great Worth and Renown, who took wonderful Delight seeing Justs and Tournaments: And upon a Time there came several brave Princes and Nobles to shew their Valour before this Princess; of all whom, none so much distinguish'd himself as the valiant *Brutus*, one of the Knights of *Malta*, to whom occured the Glory of the Day; so

so that the Princess was enamour'd of him, and could not keep her Eyes off him all the Day.

When Night drew on *Brutus* was conducted out of the Field with great Honour, Trumpets sounding, Drums beating, and the Trophies of Victory carried before him.

The Lady was all the while in the Palace Window, and so pleased with his manly Behaviour that she burn'd in Love to him, yet knew not how to reveal it. But after some Consideration, she invited the Knight to a Banquet.

Brutus received this Invitation as a great Honour, and at the prefixed Time, appeared before the Princess in such a magnificent Habit, and comely Deportment, that she was ravished therewith. After mutual Civilities and some Conversation, they went to Dinner and passed away the Time in comprimental Discourses, to the extraordinary Satisfaction of the Princess.

Now this Lady had a beautiful Daughter, full of Modesty and Virtue, upon whom the Knight had a fixed Eye; but the Princess imagining the Knight was more ambitious to court her than her young Daughter, had no Jealousie upon her Account: So after they had feasted together for the Space of a Week, the Knight most courteously took his Leave, and departed home, promising to come again soon after.

But the Time of his Promise being elapsed, and the Knight not coming, the Princess wondring at it, ask'd her Steward, What he thought might be the Reason of it? He answer'd, That he perceived the Sight of her little Hound displeased him, therefore he would not come. Hereupon the Princess, though she extremely loved that Hound, commanded him to be put to Death; which was accordingly done.

Soon after, the Knight came again, and as he was passing through a dark Room in the Palace he

he chanced to stumble, whereupon he said, I will never come this way again; which the Princess hearing, asked the Steward, why he said so? He answer'd, Because the Parrot was in that Room. O said the Lady, though I prize that Bird as my Life, go and kill it. After they had passed away a whole Month in all manner of princely Delight and Recreation, the Knight again took his Leave, and departed, promising to return in a certain Time; which being again elapsed, the Princess admired at his Absence, asked her Steward, whose Advice she took in all Things, What might be the Reason of it? He answer'd, the Knight has more Love for your Daughter than for your Highness; for always when he is here, out of your Sight, she is wantonly playing with him; and besides, I am well assured she secretly conspires your Death; and if she live much longer, will certainly prove your Ruin.

Then the Princess commanded her Daughter to be sacrificed to *Apollo*; and accordingly there was an Altar erected before the Palace Gate, covered with Black; and four great Wax-candles set in Sockets of Silver, a Chafing-Dish of Coals, and a Knife for the Executioner, being laid ready in Order, the young Lady was brought to the Altar, attended by twelve Maiden Ladies arrayed in white Vestments: And being almost at the Point of yielding to the fatal Stroke, she turned to the Princess (her Mother) and spake as follows:

Dread Princess, my most Honoured Mother,

I Am here brought in the Prime of my Youth to be sacrificed for Crimes laid to my Charge, which the Great God I shall shortly appear before, knows I am intirely innocent of as well in Thought as Action. And though now I die, (a Victim rather to the insatiate

sciate Ambition of a False Accuser, than to please the great Divinity I am offer'd to, who delights not in Humane Blood) it is in firm Confidence that the Glorious God of Heaven, who knows the Secrets of all Hearts, and my spotless Innocence, will, in due Time, bring the Truth to light to the Eternal Shame and Confusion of the Unjust, who are guilty of this my untimely Death: And then, honoured Madam, your Highness will not refuse to my Memory, those Tears and that Compassion which now your Cruel Displeasure denies me!

She had scarce make an End of her Speech, when the valiant *Brutus*, who was just returned from *Malta*, rushed into the Palace-yard, making a Lane with his Steed among the Crowd, and rescu'd the young Lady from the Knife of the Executioner, and bringing her in to her Mother, said, You had but three Things in your Palace, Madam, besides yourself, which I delighted in, and these you have, or would destroy.

The Princess asked, which those were? The Knight replied, They are your Hound, your Parrot, and your Daughter. The Princess said, my Steward informed me That the Hound offended you and advised Me to kill Him. Another Time he told me, the Parrot displeas'd you, and counselled me to destroy it: And, thirdly, he assured me, That my Daughter had most wickedly conspir'd my Death, for which he earnestly advised me to sacrifice her to *Apollo*.

Then said the Knight, Your Highness ought to have had better Proof in all these Cases; and not to have rely'd so much upon the malicious Advice of one designing Counsellor; whose Treachery shall be immediately manifested to you.

The Steward being then called, the Knight sternly demanded, if he had ever told him that he was

offended either with the Hound or Parrot? He answering, No, The Knight said Didst thou ever know the young Lady, in any one Respect, conspire the Death of her Mother?

The Steward full of Confusion, made no Reply but fell upon his Knees and beg'd Pardon of the Princess. But she turning to him in great Fury said, O cursed Traytor! what hast thou made me do! I have slain the Hound I loved so dearly, and the Parrot as I did my Life, by thy Pernicious Advice. and now I have offer'd to put to Death my only Daughter, through the same treacherous Counsel for which thou shalt surely die: And saying it is so commanded him to be led to the Gallows, and hang'd.

Thus was the virtuous Lady saved, and the perfidious Traytor condemn'd.

Now, said the Mistress, do's your Majesty understand what I have said? Yes, very well, said the Empress; and it rejoyceth my Hart that the young Lady was saved: Therefore my Daughter this Day shall not die Then said the Mistress, if you do so, you will do well; therefore I commend you to God, and thank ye for sparing your Daughter this Day for what I have said.

The Seventh Complaint *of* Radamentus.

WHEN *Radamentus* heard the Princess was pardon'd again, he ran up and down the Garden like a Madman, crying, O unhappy Man that I am! that I should come into this Country to execute Justice, and am constrained to see Vice supported, and Virtue abandoned!

The Empress hearing these Complaints, said, My Lord, leave these Lamentations: Justice shall be done. O Madam! answer'd *Radamantus*, I am griev'd to the Heart for your Majesty; who are blindly led into a Snare to your own Destruction; for it will certainly happen to you as it did to a certain Queen of the *Vandals*.

The Empress desiring to hear that Story *Radamentus* said, It will signifie nothing to tell your Majesty; for I have shewed you Six already, and yet you are dissuaded from taking Warning by them by six foolish Women: Nevertheless I will shew you this one; which shall be the last I ever shall trouble my self or your Majesty with.

The Seventh EXAMPLE *of* Radamentus.

THERE was a certain Queen of the *Vandals*, who had a very beautiful Daughter, whom she entirely loved, insomuch that she could not endure her out of her Sight.

Upon a Time as they were walking in the Garden the young Lady had a Bird in her Hand which she would very fain have caused to sing, and because it would not, she pickt out his Eyes with her Bodkin, and letting it loose, the Bird flew back, and accidentally alighted on the Branch of a Vine, which grew over the Queen's Window, and sang, for a while, very dolefully every Morning; which the Queen hearing, upon a Time, said, O that I knew but the Meaning of what this poor Bird so mournfully sings, now its Eyes are out!

An old grave Counsellor, whose Name was *Memnon* hearing the Queen say so, stood up, and said, If it may not offend the Queen, I will declare the Interpretation. The Queen commanding him to expound the Meaning, he said, Gracious Lady

The Bird warns you to beware that your Daughter pick not out your Eyes as she did his, and that you cut her off before she come to that Maturity as to sit upon your Throne with the Crown upon her Head, when you are brought up to the Bar of Justice upon your Knees, and cut off unjustly.

This Interpretation displeas'd the Queen, who rebuked the Counsellor, and said, This is but a Fable, my dear Child is of no such Nature Thus contemn'd she this seemingly wholesome Advice, according to the Proverb, *Till the Time of Repentance was too late.*

As her Daughter grew up, the Queen more and more doated upon her, insomuch that she resolved to invest her with a Power equal to her own: so that she should govern the Kingdom one Year, and her Daughter another: And in order to this, she issued a Proclamation importing, That whatsoever her

Daughter should enact in her Year, should be observed as a Law for ever established.

Soon

Soon after the young Lady was crowned with great Ceremony, and inveſted with the Regal Authority; but when ſhe had on the Royal Robes and Crown, and all the Power in her own Hands, ſhe thought they became her ſo well, that ſhe was loth to part with them; and accordingly took Meaſures to keep the ſame. For no ſooner was ſhe ſettled in her annual Government, than ſhe taxed her Mother of High-Treaſon for the Death of her Father, and brought her upon her Knees before the Bar of Juſtice, while ſhe ſat upon the Royal Throne.

The Queen perceiving her Daughter's Tyranny and Ambition, the Night following made her Eſcape, thinking to receive an Army, but in vain: For being preſently miſs'd, diligent Search was made after her; and when they had taken her, her Daughter to prevent her future Eſcape, bored out her Eyes.

Then

Then, too late, the poor Queen remembred the Song of the blind Bird, and bitterly weeping said, *Cursed be the Time that I refused to take the Caution of the Bird!*

After that, this wicked Daughter brought her again to the Bar of Justice, and found her guilty of endeavouring her Escape, and in one Day she deposed her of Kingdom, Crown, and Life, by compelling her to drink a Glass of Poison; reigning afterwards such a wicked Tyrant, that all People cursed the Day she was born.

Then said *Radamentus*, This, Madam, was the miserable End of a fond Mother! and I fear your wicked Daughter will prove so to you, if you let her live.

God forbid, said the Empress; but to prevent it, To-morrow she shall surely die.

Accordingly, the next Morning, she commanded her Officers to lead her away to the Stake, which was presently done. Then *Penthisilea*, the Seventh Mistress, came and threw her self at the Feet of the Empress, beseeching her to spare her Daughter, but that once, and she should hear the Innocence of the Princess asserted by her own Mouth the next Day: Assuring, that otherwise it would happen to her as it did to a certain rich Widow: Of whom she offer'd to relate an Example, provided the Empress in the mean time would remand her Daughter from Execution. To which the Empress assenting, the Mistress began as follows.

The EXAMPLE *of the Seventh Mistress.*

THERE was a certain Widow, who had such a rich and plentiful Estate that she knew not the Profits and Revenues thereof: So that he was obliged to make Choice of a grave old Priest to be her Assistant;

Assistant; to whom he left the chief Management of her Estate, believing she might justly confide in him.

This Widow Lady had one only Daughter, who was the sole Heiress of all her large Possessions: And the old Priest, observing the great Trust the Lady reposed in him, resolved to make his Advantage of it, and to endeavour to dispossess the Daughter, not questioning but then he could soon be able to defraud the Widow of her Estate.

Accordingly, upon a Time he said, It cannot but be very convenient, Madam, since you are a Widow, and I a Batchelor, to conclude a Marriage, provided you will cut off the Intail, and disinherit your Daughter, which will make her the more dutiful to us, knowing she must depend on our Favour and after our Decease, we will bequeathe it to her again.

The Widow thinking he had counselled her for the best, being of an easy Temper, approved this Advice, and disinherited her own Child; and then asked the old Man to be as good as his Promise; who said, I will marry you Madam, if you will assign the Estate to me: and I will be careful of your Daughter, loving to you, and govern with all Justice; and next *May-Day* shall be the Time.

The Widow reposed such great Confidence in him, that she made over all her Estate to him; which being done, he neither regarded the young Lady, nor the Widow; who, at the Time appointed, required him to marry her: But the equivocating Priest answer'd, That he were ready to marry her, if she had not cured herself a Husband. Why! said the Widow, will not you be my Husband? No, reply'd he *I* promised but to marry you, not to be your Husband.

At this the Widow wrung her Hands, exclaimed bitterly against her own fatal Credulity and the Treache-

Treachery of the Priest, and going out wept grievously, saying, This Hand which assigned my Estate from my own Child to that perfidious Villain, shall now end my miserable Life; and saying this, she stabb'd her self, and fell down dead.

As for her poor Daughter, she being turned out of Doors by this treacherous Priest, destitute of the proper Conveniencies of Life, ran distracted, and perish'd in the publick Field.

Then said the Mistress, Understand you, Madam, what I have said? Yes, very well, answer'd the Empress; The Mistress replied, I hope then your Majesty will beware of your old Counsellor; who in like manner, labours to cut off your only Daughter, and after to ruin you, that he may reign Lord and Emperor.

You have shew'd me a good Example, said the Empress; and it grieves my Heart to hear that it proved so fatal to the Widow and her Daughter. I promise you, that my Daughter shall not die this Day, and I shall rejoyce exceedingly to hear her speak to Morraw.

By the Assistance of God, replied the Mistress your Majesty shall then hear her speak; and I doubt not, but she will decide the Controversie betwixt *Radamentus* and us, to the Satisfaction of your Majesty, and all the World.

CHA

CHAP. VII.

How Sabrina, *the Empress's Daughter, complain'd of* Radamentus, *and defended her self.*

SOON after, all the seven Mistresses consulted in what manner they should attend the Prince to the Palace; who being present, said, Take no Care what I shall say, for I am provided already. This rejoyc'd them all: And they cloathed her in Cloth of Gold; and when the Time drew nigh, set her in a stately Chariot, drawn by six milk white Steeds; themselves riding in Coaches before the Chariot, with the *Roman* Banners, and all sorts of Musick playing.

The Empress hearing the Melody, came out to meet them and as soon as the Princess saw her, she fell upon her Knees, and said, *Hail! my most dear and most Honoured Mother!*

Overjoy'd to hear her speak, the Empress embraced her in her Arms, and kissed her; and having conducted her into the Palace, the Princess began to declare, How *Radamentus* had attempted to force her in the Garden, which not being able to effect, he had accus'd her of committing Fornication with a strange Man under a Fig tree; considing, That what had mad her under that wicked Charge more unhappy, was, That by her Knowledge in the Stars, foreseeing, that if she spoke any more than one Word within the space of Seven Days, she should die a shameful Death, she durst not open her Mouth in her own Vindication.

The Princess then accused *Radamentus* of committing Fornication, with a pretended Gentleman of his Bed-Chamber, who being brought, and the Princess

insist-

insisting to have his Sex examined, confessed himself a Woman.

Radamentus remaining silent and in Confusion the Empress turning to him, full of Indignation said, Wicked Wretch! was not thy Concubine sufficient to satisfie thy depraved Appetite, That thou must Attempt to debauch my only Daughter?

Then *Radamentus* fell to the Ground, and begg Pardon; but the Empress said, O ingrateful Traitor! thou imploreſt Mercy, but shalt find none for the Rigour of the Law shall be executed upon thee, to a shameful Death, as thou hast deserved. Then turning to the Princess, My dear Daughter, said she, I am intirely convinced of thy Innocence and that I may be a further Witness of thy Wisdom and Knowledge, I desire to hear an Example suitable to the present Circumstance, and then will give Sentence according to Law upon the Traitor *Radamentus*

Then, Silence being commanded, the Princess, Obedience to her Mother, began as follows:

The EXAMPLE *of* SABRINA, *the Empress's Daughter.*

IN *Bulgaria* reigned a mighty Queen, who had but one Daughter, whom she committed to the Care of a Wise Mistress to be educated and instructed in all manner of virtuous Learning; who having been a considerable Space, her Mother had Desire to see her, and sent a Letter to the Mistress to bring her home.

This being accordingly done, the young Lady appeared to her Mother, and every one who beheld her, found her so expert in Learning, gracious Behaviour, and courteous to all, that the Queen exceedingly rejoyc'd in her.

It happen'd on a Time, as the Princess waited at able upon her Mother the Queen beheld upon the Wall, the Shadow of a Hand, that wrote three lines in an unknown Tongue; which she desiring know the Meaning of, the Princess offer'd to explain the same, if the Queen would not be offend-

She declaring she would not, the young Lady ake as follows:

Most honoured Mother, This Writing signifies, hat I shall become a mighty Princess, and shall be noured of all People; especially my own Mother, ho shall bring me a Glass of Wine, and bow three nes, and kneel in the Delivery of it.

The Queen inraged at this Interpretation, said hou shalt never have such Honour and Service of e: Then she commanded her Servants to carry her o a distant Forest, and after they had kill'd her, ing her Heart for a Pledge of Death.

The Servants obey'd but having Compassion on admirable a young Lady, when they came to the

Forest, agreed to kill some wild Beast, and carr the Heart to the Queen; and to put the Princess in hollow Tree, and to leave her to the Care of Divi Providence.

This was no sooner perform'd than they espied young wild Boar asleep, under a large Tree; whi one of them ascending, stooped down, and havi cut his Throat, the rest drew near, and taking o his Heart carried it to the Queen, who said insul ingly, believing 'twas her Daughter's, *Prophe sometimes prove not true!*

The next Morning, a Knight of *Trabezond* hun ing in that Forest, espied the Princess in the holl Tree. H r noble Appearance, and Majestick Cou tenance, immediately confirm'd him, that she w of Royal Extraction; and therefore well plea with his Prize, he took her out, and carried her to his own Country; and gave her Attendants su table to her supposed Birth, which she thought fit to declare, lest she shou'd again fall into Hands of her cruel Mother.

The young Lady under the Tuition of the Kni soon improv'd so much in Beauty, Wit, and Le ing, that Fame sounded her Praise all over *Tr zond*; insomuch that the Emperor, thereof was a young Prince, came to see her at the Knig House.

No sooner did he set his Eyes upon her, but was enamour'd of her, and after Dinner, hav danc'd with her, he married, and brought her ho with great Pomp and Solemnity to his Palace, crowned her Empress.

Three Years she lived thus with her Husb the Emperor, in all manner of Splendor and H piness; at the End of wh ch, the Emperor dy she was crowned sole Empr ss of *Trabezond*, as Husband had willed.

Arri

rriving now to the full Height of Glory, she
ly'd her self to the Study of Astrology for her
ate Diversion; and on a Time by the Configu-
ns of the Stars, observed, That the Prince of
ussia had invaded her Mother's Dominions, to
rive her both of Crown and Dignity, and banish
out of her own Country.

he Generous Princess laying to Heart her Mo-
's Afflictions (for pure good Nature will never
totally lost) raised a mighty Army, and marched
ards her Mother's Country; who was presently
rmed thereof, to her great Joy and Surprize,
wing she had never any Correspondence with
Wherefore she went to meet her, and coming
re the Empress, she fell upon her Knees, and
O great Empress! have I merited so signal a
our of your most excellent Majesty, as that you
ld come in Person to preserve me in my Domi-
s!

he Empress affectionately took her up, and con-
ed her to the Place where she had taken up her
rt; where being come, the Queen presented the
ress with a Bowl of Wine, and bowing three
es, kneeled to present it.

he Empress then commanding her Servants to
rt the Room, asked the Queen, What became
e Daughter she was inform'd she once had?
ring her to tell her freely.

he Queen then without concealing any Thing,
the Empress, as has been related, Of the Hand-
ing; of her Daughter's Interpretation; and of
own Cruelty thereupon; excusing her self, That
apprehended the Explanation to proceed from
umption and Ambition, and that her Daughter
ld dethrone and make her her Vassal.

Then

Then said the Empress you see, Madam, Th 'tis in vain to strive against the Will of Heave For, to keep your Majesty no longer in Suspence, am the same Daughter whom ye so cruelly doom to die, being preserved by Providence to supp your Crown and Dignity.

The Queen astonished at this Declaration, fe down before the Empress, begging her Pardon The Empress took her up, and dutifully kneelin requested her Blessing; after which, she arose, a said, Now you shall find, Madam, That my Glo and Exaltation serves only to restore your Hono and to support your Dignity: I will never la down my Arms 'till I have revenged you of yo Enemies: And even then you shall every where honour'd above my self; and I will always act becomes a dutiful Daughter to her affectiona Mother.

The Queen transported with Joy, blest t Time of the Birth of such a Daughter; and de ring to hear by what Means she was preserv'd, a had arrived to such Dignity, the Empress told he How the Servants sent to kill her, had preserv her in a hollow Tree, carrying to her the Heart of Boar: How the Knight had found her, and carri her to *Trebezond*; and, lastly, How the Emperor fe in Love, and married her; as has been at lar related.

Soon after, the Queen and the Empress were m by the Tyrannical Prince of *Moravia*, with a gre Army, a bloody Battle ensu'd, wherein the Prin was totally discomfited, and slain in the Pursuit and all the Princesses and Lords of the Country pa their profound Homage to their Right ful Sovereig with the utmost Joy and Triumph, and soon afte the Empress united *Moravia* to the Domi ions her Mother; through which having established fi

and lasting Tranquility, and received the Congulations of all the neighbouring Potentates, she rn'd with great Honour and Glory into her own rritories.

CHAP VIII.

w the Empress resign'd her Dignity; and caused her Daughter Sabrina *to be Crowned Empress.*

THE Empress *Sabrina* having thus ended her Example, to the Applause of all present, proded to apply it to the Case in Hand, and to e her Mother the Empress of her inviolable Dund Obedience; which she did in so admirable nner, that the Empress, no longer able to conher great Joy, affectionately embraced her, and placed her in a Chair of State on her Right d, and made the following Speech to the Princess, he Hearing of all:

y dear Daughter,

'Is not without the greatest Joy and Satisfaction, that I have received this pregnant Proof of your ence and Wit. And seeing it hath pleased the ne Powers to bless you with such Graces of Mind, w firmly resolve to quit to you my Throne, and e my self to a peaceful Retirement from all the bles of a Crown, *and the* Noise *and* Hurry *of an Life.*

am very well satisfy'd by the Example *you have me, of your Ability to govern the Empire, and in the glorious Throne of Judgment, which so of your noble Ancestors have possess'd: To You re, I commit the Care and Welfare of my Peowhich henceforth are no longer mine, but yours.*

The

The Empress then turning to the Nobles, ma
Speech to them in the following Terms:

My Lords and Counsellors,

*I Cannot doubt, that you intirely approve my R
lution, and are as well pleased with it as I
self. You are not insensible. That my Daughte
the only Heir of my Dominions; and as I ca
live a long Time, she will be your Empress but a
tle while sooner than you might have expected.*

*I am quite tir'd with the Fatigue of Governm
and as I have lived a great while, and seen m
Days of Prosperity as well as of Adversity, I ca
but think it my concern to lay down my Earthly
dem, to fit myself without Interruption for a
ter in Heaven. Nor will you, my Lords, envy
the Satisfaction to see the Crown, by an equal
just Administration, flourish on the Head of
Daughter before I go to the Grave: And I que
not, That you will every one of you contribute
his Power to the Advancement of her Honour
Glory, and the Publick Good.*

Then the Lords drew up an Address to the
press as follows.

Most gracious Empress,

*WITH Hearts full of Gratitude, we beg L
to return you our most Humble Thank
graciously condescending to acquaint us with you
perial Majesty's Will and Pleasure of resigni
your Princely Daughter, the Imperial Scepter
you so long and so gloriously sway'd.*

*As we have all along had the Honour to acqu
selves as the most obedient and faithful Subjects*

gr

cious a Sovereign; so we shall not now scruple to ve your Imperial Majesty the most signal Demonation of our Duty, by our intire Submission to r Majesty's Choice and Resignation, grounded Motives so glorious to your Imperial Majesty.

We beg Leave however, to add, That it would be h extream Reluctance that we should part with r Majesty's gentle and gracious Administration, re we not assured that your Majesty's worthy Suc- or will think it her Glory to tread in your Steps, d after your Illustrious Example, make the Wel- e and Happiness of all her People her chiefest t and Study.

The Empress after this, suspending the Execution Radamentus, for his greater Mortification fixed Day of Coronation; which being arrived, the ncess *Sabrina* was Crowned Empress with the atest Solemnity and Magnificence: and all the bles and Magistrates being assembled to swear Hoge and Allegiance, they were introduced with great mp and Ceremony; and having taken the usual ths, the new Empress in the Presence of them all s harangu'd her Mother.

Most Honoured Mother,

Notwithstanding it hath been your most gracious Will and Pleasure to confer upon me the Impe- Dignity, before your Majesty's Decease, which Am ition never aspir'd to; Yet ever dear and ured, Madam, the Name and Authority shall not r from you while you live.

will take upon me, Madam, to determine all Af- s of Difficulty and Trouble, that I may ease your sty of the Burthen of a Crown; but You shall have Glory and Honour of it: And I shall ever think it

my

my Duty to respect and obey your Sacred Imper Maj sty both as my Sovereign, and my Mother.

These Expressions were received with App'au by the Nobles, and the Acclamations of all t People, among whom nothing was heard but joy Shouts of, *Long live the Empress* Sabrina.

CHAP. IX.

How Radamentus *and his Concubine were se tenc'd to Death, and accordingly ex cuted.*

WHEN the Solemnity of the Coro ation w thus over, the New Empress assembled her Judges and Counselors in the Judgment-Ha where being sat in her Imperial Robes, toget with her Mother, upon the Throne, *Radamen* and his Concubine were led into the Hall to Bar of Justice; and then the young Empress s as follows:

My Lords, our loving Counsellors and Judges,

YOU *have already heard the Indictment of the infamous Prisoners at the Bar, and their Con sion of all that has been laid to their Charge; which Reason it might seem needless to say any th more to convince you of what you ought to do to tisfie offended Justice and injur'd Innocence: But the great Scandal and Danger I have been so la deliver'd from, should make evil Impressions on Minds of any of our good Subjects, I hold my obliged to state the Matter to you in its true Light.*

The Criminal before us, observing that her Maj my ever honoured Mother, reposed a great Confid in his Counsel, meditating no less than my De

nd to dethrone the Empress, to make way for himself o reign, persuaded my Mother to send for me home rom the Care of the seven Mistresses, not questioning ut he should find some Pretence to bring about his evilish Purpose.

Before I set out having consulted the Stars, I lainly saw, That if I spake two Words to any Body in he Term of seven Days, I should surely die a shameful Death: Being however, oblig'd to go, the Prisoner at the Bar attempted to seduce me to the hateful Sin of Fornication; but all his wicked Arts proving ineffectual, and believing I could not speak for myself, he accused me of committing the very Crime had just resisted with a Stranger in the Palace Garden.

To omit nothing that might conduce to my Destruction, I being reprieved seven Times by the Mercy of my ever honoured Mother, thro' the Persuasions and Wit of my famous Mistresses, he collected seven wicked and pernicious Examples, which Day by Day he told her Majesty, to induce her to put me to Death.

The seven fatal Days being happily over, the Eighth I spake my for my self, and have confuted the malitious and traiterous Slanders of this perjur'd Wretch, and clear'd my Innocence in the Face of all Mankind.

Thus, my Lords, is the Prisoner at the Bar guilty of High-Treason and False Accusation. Besides which it is evident, That he has kept a private Concubine in Man's Apparel, as has been confess'd, who is also at the Bar, and was his Adviser in all his Hellish Attempts, to impute to me, an innocent Virgin, the heinous Crimes, which he daily committed in his private Chamber; by which means I have been seven Times led to the Place of Execution, to be burnt, as the most infamous Criminal.

Therefore, most gracious Mother, as you are the noble Governess of this mighty Empire; forasmuch as

I will not own the General Name in your Life; al you the Lords and Barons of my Privy-Council; an you my grave and learned Lords the Judges, of You I demand the Justice upon the Traytor convicted at the Bar and upon his Concubine, through whose horrid Treason I, and the whole Empire, have been in such manifest Peril.

Then *Radamentus* stood up, and pleaded his former Services, *viz.* That he had concluded a Peace with the King of *Gaul*; twice with the King of *Naples*, and once with the Emperor of *Greece*; which Services, having always, as he said, proved himself a faithful Minister, he implored the Mercy of the Empress and the Court; or that he might be only banished, or imprisoned during Life. But the young Empress rejecting all his Prayers, and insisting that the Traytor might be made an Example to Posterity, the Judges, after Consultation, said to *Radamentus*:

As to the Services by you pleaded, granting them to be faithfully performed, you have not done more than you were obliged to by your Duty as a Subject and by the great trust our most gracious Soverein repos'd in you; Besides, it was very requisite that you should recommend yourself by some faithful Services to her Majesty's Esteem, to be the better able to bring about your hellish Conspiracies and Treasons; the Court therefore can ascribe no Merit to you from any of your past Actions; at least, not sufficient to with-hold the Hand of Justice, and balance the most horrid Crimes you stand convicted of; they therefore unanimously find themselves obliged to pronounce upon you and your Concubine who has been accessary to all your Treasons, the following Sentence.

SE

SENTENCE.

That you shall both be taken away from this Place to the Place from whence you came, and from thence be drawn at two Horses Tails through the City to the Place of Execution; and there under the common Gallows, be consum'd to Ashes.

This Sentence being pronounc'd, the Court broke up, and the Criminals were carried to the Prison from whence they were brought; and seven Days after, were both tied to Horses Tails, and so dragged through the Streets, where Multitudes of People flock'd to see them, every one rejoycing, and crying out, *Behold the Traytors! Behold the horrid Traytors!*

In this manner were they brought to the common Gallows, where a Stake was provided, to which they were bound Back to Back; and the Fire being ready to be kindled, *Rodamentus* addressing himself to the People, began his Confession as follows:

Good People,

BEhold in the Person of the wretched Rodamentus *an Instance of the Vicissitudes of Fortune! 'twas but t'other Day you beheld me seated in Glory and Grandeur, the second Person in the Empire, and now you perceive me reduced to the State of; the most miserable Person in the Nation, despised and hated by all, pitied by none, and led to the most ominious and shameful Death: Which however, I must confess, is but just upon me; for in the Time I have govern'd the Nation, I have sentenced to Death great Numbers of innocent Persons to enjoy their Estates, who were executed upon this very Spot. I forever sentenced to Death my Uncle; signed the*

Warrant for my younger Brother's Execution; by which Cruelties I broke my Mother's Heart: And lastly, I have pleaded seven Days incessantly, with a trayterous Intention, for the Destruction of the Imperial Princess; for which, and all my other evill Actions, the Divine Vengeance has at last overtaken me, as you see.

As soon as he had said this, the Fire was kindled; and as the Flame began to rise, the People heard a great and lamentable Voice, crying Radamentus is coming! *Make Room! The great* Radamentus is coming! And no sooner were these Words spoken, but his Body vanished from the Stake, and his Concubine consumed in the Flame.

Thus hated and unpitied of all Men, perished the Traytor *Radamentus*, as a just Example to all wise Counsellors and false Accusers.

CHAP. X.

The Death of the old Empress. Her Burial and Epitaph. The Gauls invade the Empire, and are overthrown.

THE new Empress having thus out-lived her immortal Enemy, began a most happy and glorious Reign; and by her affectionate Duty to her Mother, her impartial Administration of Justice, her facetious Temper, and her great Wisdom and Penetration, she attracted the Admiration and Love of every one.

Her Mother lived to observe, with the utmost Pleasure and Satisfaction, her Daughter admired and fear'd over all the neighbouring Nations for her Wit and Beauty; and that every Day ushered in for her something more Glorious than the preceding; and then in the midst of a flourishing Peace she dy'd, leaving her beloved *Sabrina* sole Empress of the *Roman* Empire: Who having provided everything to solemnize the Funeral with the utmost

M

Magnificence, interred her Mother in a Noble Monument purposely erected; on which was engraven the following

EPITAPH.

WITHIN this Monument *interred lies*
The Glorious Mother of Sabrina *Wise;*
Whose Power and impartial Justice made
The Good rejoice, and Wicked Men afraid.
She liv'd to triumph o'er her Enemies,
And all the wicked Arts and Fallacies
That Radamentus *used to betray*
And take Sabrina's *precious Life away.*
For Time and Fortune favour'd her at last;
Whose Life was sav'd, and Radamentus *cast.*

The young Empress having thus pompously interred her Mother, applied her whole Study for the Welfare and Prosperity of all her People, with so much Diligence and Success, that Kings and Princes came from remote Parts, to pay their Respects to such an excellent Lady, and be Witnesses of her Wit and Grandeur. She incouraged all manner of Arts and useful Learning, and particularly the Naturalists; of whom she learnt the Nature of Birds, Beasts, Herbs, and all kinds of Creatures both Animal and Vegital.

About this Time, the *Gauls*, a barbarous and faithless Nation, inur'd to Blood and unjust Invasions, made Incursions into the rich Dominions of the Empress; not to revenge any Injury to Affront, but meerly out of an unjust Principle to plunder and rob.

To repel these Barbarians, the Empress assembling a great Army upon the Frontiers, a bloody Battle ensu'd, which continued three Hours with doubtful Success. At last her General *Gorgen*, being

ing arrived in the Army of the Empress, soon decided the Controversy in Favour of the valiant *Romans*; fighting so courageously, that he made Lines throughout the Army of the *Gauls*, and at that time totally routed them.

The *Gauls* being thus put to Flight, and driven into their own Country, the Empire enjoyed a glorious and undisturbed Tranquility: And the Fame of the Empress rang throughout the whole World.

CHAP. XI.

How the King of Germany *came to court the Empress* Sabrina; *And how he obtained her in Marriage.*

IN the Beginning of *April*, when the Earth was clothed in her Summer Livery, and every Creature rejoiced in the Pleasures of a flourishing Spring, *Alexander*, King of *Germany*, prepared a splendid Equipage, and made a Journey to the Imperial City of *Rome*, to be an Eye-Witness of the singular Perfections of the Empress; and, if possible, to obtain her in Marriage.

Arriving upon the *Roman* Frontiers, the Empress honouring the Character of so great a King, went to meet him in a Chariot drawn by six Milk white Steeds with Trappings of Gold, attended by the chief Lords and Ladies of the Court: and after mutual Civilities, conducted him to her Palace, where no Magnificence nor Delight was wanting to divert his Majesty.

The King was soon charmed with the Wit and Beauty of the Empress; yet dreading a Repulse, he was afraid to reveal his Passion: But on a Time, assuming Courage, he made a Letter the Messenger of his Mind, in the following Words:

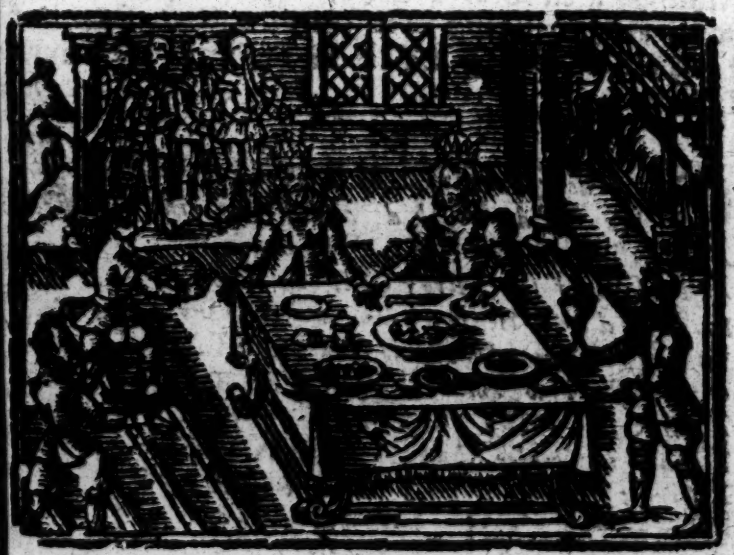
In

Incomparable Princess,

'Tis betwixt Hope and Fear that I address my self to your Imperial Majesty, in earnest Supplication That you will grant my Request. I here acknowledge my Heart captivated by your Beauty, and my Soul ravish'd by your Wit, so that if your Majesty consent not to be my Wife, and the glorious Queen of Germany, *my Life will soon become a Victim to your Disdain. Your Answer,* dear Madam, *will determine the Fate of*

Your Majesty's obedient Servant.

The Empress considering the King's great Merit and Power, soon comply'd with his Request, to his inexpressible Joy.



The happy Day fix'd for the Celebration of their Nuptials being come, all the neighbouring Prince ent to congratulate the Royal Couple; the Wedding

Dinner was kept with the utmoſt Magnificence, the Sons of Kings and Princeſs waiting at Table: it was ſtored with the beſt Varieties the World could afford, a Conſort of melodious Muſick ra ſing their Minds, adding to the general Joy.

After the Ceremony of the Marriage was over, for the ſpace of ſeven Years never King and Queen enjoy'd more Peace and Unity. And what particularly added to their Felicity was, two lovely Boys which Providence bleſt 'em with in that Term.

In the Eight Year of their happy Marriage, ſome Commotions happening in *Germany*, fomented under hand by the King of *Macedonia*, King *Alexander* was obliged to go thither to make a timely Proviſion againſt them: But unable to bear this Separation from his beloved Empreſs, he conſtantly every Morning uſed to aſcend the Higheſt Mountain near him, and fixing his Eyes towards *Rome*, ſing to his Lute the following Lines, in Praiſe of their mutual Love:

O H! dear Sabrina! by Heaven's Protection,
We lov'd, we lik'd, and firmly link'd Affection,
And with the ſolemn Pow'r of an Oath,
In Preſence of the better Gods, we both
Exchang'd our Hearts, from which nought can diminiſh
No Fortune can diſſolve, no Death can finiſh
O when ſhall we embrace on Cupid's Bed!
With Roſes, Violets, and Myrtles ſpread,
Beneath the cooler Shade of Cyprus Grove,
Taſting the chaſte Delights of Lawful Love!
When ev'ry Bliſs enjoy, that may delight
Nature, or unreſtrained Appetite!

In this manner did King *Alexander* imploy his Leiſure Moments, during his Abſence from his Love

y *Sabrina*: But Fortune, constant in nothing, but inconstancy, soon changed Sides, and convinced this Royal Pair, whom seem'd to think themselves perfectly Happy in their mutual Love. That there is no solid durable Felicity in this World; as shall be manifested in the ensuing Chapter.

CHAP. XII.

How the King of Macedonia *proclaimed War against and overcame* King Alexander.

NO sooner had King *Alexander* accomodated his *German* Affairs, and arrived in the Palace of his beloved *Sabrina* at *Rome*, but came a Herald at Arms from the King of *Macedonia*, to challenge him into the Field. King *Alexander* acquainted the Empress with it, so she thereupon drew a Scheme, and perceived by the Configuration of the Planets, that this Battle would be fatal; and that they should be overthrown; and though she would not tell the King so, yet she advis'd him (if possible) to make Peace with the King of *Macedonia*, but all in vain, for no Terms but *becoming his Vassal* would be admitted; whereupon King *Alexander* said, That he would meet him in the of Plains *Thessaly*; and so taking a solemn farewel of this sorrowful Empress, and his two Sons, he soon arrived; and finding his Enemies assembled for Battle, he made an Oration, to incourage his Soldiers, importing, That the Ambition of the King of *Macedonia* being the only Motive to this War, they must consider they fought for Liberty and Property: That if they lost the Day, their young Men would be put to the Sword, their Wives and Daughters ravished before their Faces, their Cities, Towns, and Villages plunder'd and laid in Ashes; and lastly, a perpetual Brand of Infa-

my,

my and Slavery fixed upon their Nation and their Posterity: On 'tother hand animating them, from Motives of Honour and Glory; That the Wealth of *Macedonia* would become their Plunder; and from his own Affection, Favour and Bounty, which he promis'd them who signaliz'd themselves that Day.

The Soldiers unanimously answer'd by a mighty shout and with great Courage and Bravery, *They would stand by their Prince to the last drop of Blood*; so march'd towards the Enemy, the King himself leading the Van. The Battle soon began, and was continu'd till Night with great Obstinacy, losing Twelve thousand Men on each side, and both Armies renew'd the Fight next Morning with the utmost Vigour, but the Event prov'd fatal to King *Alexander*, for in two Hours he was totally defeated, his General and his bravest Men kill'd, and forced to disguise himself, for fear of being taken.

The King having with much Difficulty made his escape to the Frontiers of *Rome*, found there his Empress overwhelm'd with Grief at the dismal News of his ill Success, and taking her in his Arms, said, *In the midst of my Misfortunes I have one Consolation which infinitely overballances all my Woes, and that is, I again behold my dear* Sabrina. *Be comforted, Incomparable Lady*, continued he, *none are exempted from the Frowns of Fortune, and we must look on the Afflictions of this Life as the Incentives to prepare us for a better in the World to come, where no ambitious Enemy can invade or annoy our Felicity.*

The virtuous Empress, somewhat revived at these Words, assumed her wonted Courage, and assur'd the King, that she was ready to accompany him in the most abject condition, esteeming his Conversation above the Pomp of Sovereignty, and the trouble some Honour of a Crown.

Men

Mean while, the numerous Armies of *Macedonia* following their Victory, soon over ran all *Germany* and *Italy*, and being on their March to besiege the City of *Rome*, this Royal Pair, and their two Sons, with all Things necessary for their Honourable Subsistence, retired into a remote Island, attended by three tributary Kings, and the seven famous Mistresses, who having shar'd in their Prosperity, would not leave them in Adversity; and there pass'd the Remainder of their Days in a quiet and peaceable Retirement from all the Cares of humane Life; and on their Tomb was erected the following

EPITAPH.

WITHIN this House of Stone entombed lyes
The King of Germany, *sirnam'd* The Wise;
With the great Roman *Empress, his dear Wife,*
The chiefest Earthly Blessing of his Life,
Whom Macedonia's *King in wrongful Fight,*
Deprived of their Countries, Crowns, and Right.
But now they do enjoy a Heavenly Crown,
That cannot fade, where Tyrants *ne'er shall com*

FINIS.

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